FIVE FAVORITE FEATURES!
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
Leading COMICS
10¢
VIGILANTE
GREEN ARROW
TAR-SPANGLED KID
SHINING KNIGHT
CRIMSON AVENGER
ALL GO TO TOWN
TOGETHER IN A
AST FULL-LENGTH
ADVENTURE AGAINST
AS WILY A RASCAL
AS EVER GAVE SEVEN
HEROES A TUSSLE IN
THE STORY OF
HE MIRACLES THAT
ONEY COULDN'T BUY"

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SALUTE
By C. W. Anderson

"Some day I hope to own a real race horse," said Pe as he cleaned one of the work horses on his father's far And that is just what happened.

Peter heard the grown people talking about the gr horses that would run in the races at Saratoga. How lunged to go there and see them for himself! Perhaps he did a lot of chores around the place that morning father might take him along to the big races. And enough! His father did ask him to go along.

At the races a wonderful thing happened to Peter. M hawk, an old race horse, had gone lame, and some Peter managed to get him for himself. Peter was so h he could hardly speak.

Home again, with a race horse of his own, Peter about trying to heal Mohawk's lame leg. Would his ever be able to race again? And how would Peter one day, come to own a grandson of the great Man-O-

You will find all the answers in this interesting It has beautiful pictures of horses, too.

This review of Salute was written by Jackie Caudell, of S. C., and was selected as the winner of the $5.00 award. has been sent to Jackie. Other fine reviews were written by:

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(Code Krypton No. 9)

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CQN JRM XO QRB LXDWCAH XH KDRHVJ
JWM KXWMB!

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POSSESSED OF COLD, RUTHLESS, CALCULATING POWER... DRIVEN BY A DIABOLICALLY CUNNING, SCHEMING BRAIN THAT SCOFFS AT JUSTICE AND TOYS WITH MURDER... MOVING WITH A MASTERY OVER MEN AND MONEY UNMATCHED BY ANY OTHER MORTAL... SUCH IS THE MAN KNOWN AND FEARED AS THE **SKULL!** AND **THE SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY**, ENMESHED IN A MAZE OF DARK AND DANGEROUS DESIGN, FIND THEMSELVES BATTLING FOR THEIR LIVES AS THEY PIT THEIR MAGIC SKILL AND MATCHLESS COURAGE AGAINST THE FOUL AND FELONIOUS PLANS OF THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN THE WORLD IN HIS QUEST FOR

"THE MIRACLES THAT MONEY COULDN'T BUY!"

IN THE OFFICE OF THE GLOBE-LEADER, LEE TRAVIS, BETTER KNOWN IN HIS GUISE OF THE CRIMSON AVENGER, WAITS IMPATIENTLY FOR THE JANGLING OF A DISTANT BE...L...
OPERATOR, I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES TO GET THE STATE PRISON! I WANT TO SPEAK TO THE WARDEN!
I'M SORRY, SIR, THE LINE IS DEAD! SOMETHING IS WRONG AT THE PRISON!
SOMETHING WRONG! AND PORKY JOHNSON'S EXECUTION IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY! HE ALWAYS THREATENED TO ESCAPE... I WONDER...?
THERE'S A PHONE CALL, SIR, FROM A MAN WHO SAYS HE'S THE CRIMSON AVENGER! IT'S URGENT!
IT MUST BE, OR THE AVENGER WOULDN'T BOTHER TO CALL ME AT SUCH A TIME!
A SWIFT TWIRL OF THE TELEPHONE DIAL AND IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VAST METROPOLIS...
IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TO ADDRESS YOU, GENTLEMEN, AND SPEAK OF MY EXPERIENCES IN FIGHTING CRIME! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MR. GREEN ARROW...
LATER... THE ARROWPLANE, FASTEST THING ON WHEELS, WITH A CARGO OF CRIME-CHASERS, SPEEDS TOWARD THE STATE PRISON...
PORKY JOHNSON COMMITTED MANY MURDERS, AND YOU, GREEN ARROW, BROUGHT HIM TO JUSTICE! THAT'S WHY I GOT IN TOUCH WITH YOU!
WE'LL BE AT THE PRISON IN FIFTEEN MINUTES! I HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE!
MEANWHILE... DEATH HOVERS OVER THE GRIM GRAY WALLS OF THE PENITENTIARY...
ARE THEY GOING TO BE SURPRISED WHEN THESE BOMBS LAND!
NEVER MIND THE CHATTER! FOLLOW THE SKULL'S ORDERS AND PULL THE LEVER!
DOZENS OF INCENDIARY BOMBS BURST INTO FLAMES OVER THE PRISON BUILDINGS...
THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE!

WHILE, UNNOTICED IN THE CONFUSION, BILL JOHNSON CLIMBS ONE OF THE TOWERING STONE WALLS....
THEY THOUGHT THEY'D HANG ME TODAY, BUT THE SKULL SAID THEY WOULDN'T ... AND HE KEPT HIS PROMISE!
IF I JUMP DOWN OUTSIDE, THEY'LL TRAIL ME WITH BLOODHOUNDS, AND CAPTURE ME AGAIN.. AH, THAT LADDER!
I WONDER WHY THE SKULL IS DOING ALL THIS FOR ME? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO HE IS!
BUT AS THE ESCAPING CONVICT CLAMBERS TOWARD FREEDOM, THE TRIO OF LEGIONNAIRES ARRIVES ON THE SCENE....
SEEMS LIKE WE'RE TOO LATE, GREEN ARROW!
WE'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE TO GET HIM! ALL SET FOR THE CATAPULT, SPEEDY!
THE TOUCH OF A TRIGGER..AND THE WIZARD ARCHER SAILS THROUGH THE AIR WITH THE SPEED OF ONE OF HIS OWN ARROWS!
I HOPE SPEEDY'S AIM WAS GOOD!.. IT'LL BE TOO BAD IF I MISS THAT LADDER!
JUST MADE IT! AND NOW TO SPOIL JOHNSON'S ESCAPE!
HEY, WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
YOU PUT YOUR FOOT IN IT WHEN YOU BUTTED IN THIS TIME GREEN ARROW!
UGH...MY HEAD'S GOING IN CIRCLES ...I'VE GOT TO HOLD ON...
3

AS THE DAZED ARCHER STRUGGLES TO RETAIN HIS GRIP, HIS CRIMINAL FOE CLIMBS TO SAFETY... AND THEN...
SO LONG, GREEN ARROW! YOU'VE GOT A LONG TRIP AHEAD OF YOU DOWN TO EARTH!
MY HEAD'S CLEARING... BUT JOHNSON IS IN THE PLANE.. AND THE PILOT'S GOING TO CUT THE LADDER!
I'VE GOT TO ACT FAST.. WHILE I'M STILL IN THE AIR...
I'LL BE ABLE TO HANG ON BY THIS ARROWLINE ...IF IT HITS RIGHT!
STRAIGHT THROUGH ONE OF THE PLANE WINGS WHIZZES THE STEEL BARB... AND THE MASTER BOWMAN'S SUDDEN DESCENT IS CHECKED!
NOW TO CLIMB UP AGAIN TOWARD THE PLANE...
BUT UP ABOVE, IN THE COCKPIT...
HE'S STILL TRYING TO GET ME! WE'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM SOMEHOW!
WE'RE PASSING OVER A FOREST ...I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
WE'LL SWING HIM AGAINST ONE OF THOSE TREES ON THE END OF HIS OWN ARROWLINE!
HMM.. WONDER WHY THE PLANE IS FLYING SO LOW?
I GET IT! THEY'RE TRYING TO GET RID OF ME! I'LL HAVE TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT!

HE GOT AWAY!
NEVER MIND HIM! MY ORDERS ARE TO DELIVER YOU TO THE SKULL!
JUST MADE IT!
SOON... ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, A SERIES OF SENSATIONAL ESCAPES BRINGS FREEDOM TO VICIOUS CRIMINALS, AND BAFFLING HEADACHES TO THE POLICE!
HE'S GOT A GUN AHHH...
THESE BULLETS ARE A PRESENT FROM THE SKULL!
THE SKULL SURE KNOWS HOW TO PICK A POISON GAS THAT WORKS!
THE SKULL HAD THIS TUNNEL DUG FOR ME, AND I MYSELF DIDN'T KNOW IT UNTIL NOW! HE'S SURE A SLICK CUSTOMER! WONDER WHO HE IS?
GREIDER, THIS IS AN ORDER TO HAVE YOU TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PRISON! YOU'LL GO WITH THIS OFFICER!
HE DON'T KNOW THE ORDER WAS FORGED! THIS FAKE COP IS ONE OF THE SKULL'S MEN!
FIRST PORKY JOHNSON GOT AWAY, AND NOW BULL GREIN, WHO WAS SENTENCED TO SOLITARY IMPRISONMENT FOR LIFE! I WONDER IF THE SAME MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH ESCAPES?
AND NOW HE'S FREE AGAIN! WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR DIRTY WORK!
WE CAUGHT SPARKLER AND HAD HIM CONVICTED!
SO THAT RATTLER, BRONCO SLADE, SHOT HIS WAY OUT! WELL, I'LL JUST HAVE TO ROUND HIM UP AGAIN!
THAT BASE VARLET, GREIDER, HAS ONCE MORE ELUDED THE MINIONS OF JUSTICE! I MUST CALL HIM TO ACCOUNT ONCE MORE!

MEANWHILE ... IN A DOMAIN WORTHY OF AN ORIENTAL MONARCH RISES A TOWERING CASTLE CONSTRUCTED WITH MATCHLESS SPLENDOR...

MASTER OF ITS WONDROUS WEALTH IS NONE OTHER THAN ... THE SKULL!

YOU GENTLEMEN ARE WONDERING WHY I HAD YOU RELEASED FROM JAIL!

WE FIGURE YOU'RE THE BOSS OF A BIG SHOT CRIME OUTFIT!

NO, GENTLEMEN, I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL CRIMINAL! I AM A WEALTHY MAN, WEALTHY BEYOND DREAMS! BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS MY MONEY CANNOT BUY! YOU SHALL GET THEM FOR ME!

YOU, SLADE, ARE AN EXPERT WITH HORSES! I WANT YOU TO STEAL **SPINAWAY**, THE WORLD'S FASTEST RACER, WHICH HIS OWNER REFUSED TO SELL TO ME AT ANY PRICE!

YOU SAVED ME FROM BEING SHOT BY A FIRING SQUAD, SKULL! I'LL GET THAT HORSE FOR YOU!

SPARALER, YOU KNOW GEMS! YOU MUST GET FOR ME THE FAMOUS KORAN DIAMOND, WHICH I COULDN'T BUY FOR A MILLION DOLLARS!

SKULL, IF NOT FOR YOU, I'D BE DEAD IN A LETHAL CHAMBER RIGHT NOW! THAT DIAMOND IS AS GOOD AS IN YOUR POCKET!

CORBIN, IT'S UP TO YOU TO STEAL THE ROCKET SHIP WHICH AN INVENTOR IS BUILDING IN KENTUCKY! WITH THAT I SHALL BE ABLE TO TAKE A PLEASURE TRIP TO THE MOON!

I'LL FOLLOW ORDERS, SKULL!

GREIDER, YOU'VE GOT A HARDER JOB THAN THE OTHERS! I WANT YOU TO STEAL THE SHINING KNIGHT'S BULLETPROOF COAT OF MAIL! THEN I'LL NO LONGER BE AFRAID OF BEING SHOT IN THE BACK BY SOME TRAITOR!

I'LL DO THAT, SKULL! IT'S THE KNIGHT'S FAULT I WAS CAUGHT AND SENTENCED TO BE ELECTROCUTED!

AS FOR YOU, JOHNSON, YOUR JOB IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT! I WANT YOU TO SECURE A MACHINE WHOSE RAYS BRING ABOUT PERPETUAL YOUTH! I'M GETTING TO BE AN OLD MAN, AND I'M AFRAID OF DYING!

JUST TELL ME WHERE IT IS, SKULL, AND IT'S YOURS!

YES, GENTLEMEN, I, WHO AM THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN THE WORLD, WANT THESE MIRACLES THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY! YOUR QUESTS MUST BE SUCCESSFUL! NOW BE OFF... AND GOOD LUCK!

GOOD LUCK TO THE SKULL'S MEN MEANS AN EVIL DESTINY FOR LAW-ABIDING MANKIND! IS THE SKULL AS HE THINKS, REALLY ABOVE THE LAW? DOES HIS GIGANTIC WEALTH GIVE HIM THE POWER TO FLOUT THE RULES WHICH ORDINARY MORTALS MUST OBEY? HAVE THE

SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY

FINALLY MET THEIR NEMESIS?

WE SHALL SEE!

The VIGILANTE

CHAPTER 2

IN THE HOME OF ROSCOE MEEK, THREE WOMEN PLAY BRIDGE, WHILE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SULKS IN THE KITCHEN...
IT'S WONDERFUL HOW YOU CONTROL YOUR HUSBAND, MRS. MEEK! HE DOES EVERY-THING YOU SAY!
SHUCKS, I WISH I HAD THE NERVE TO TALK BACK TO HER! IF I WAS ONLY LIKE THE VIGILANTE!

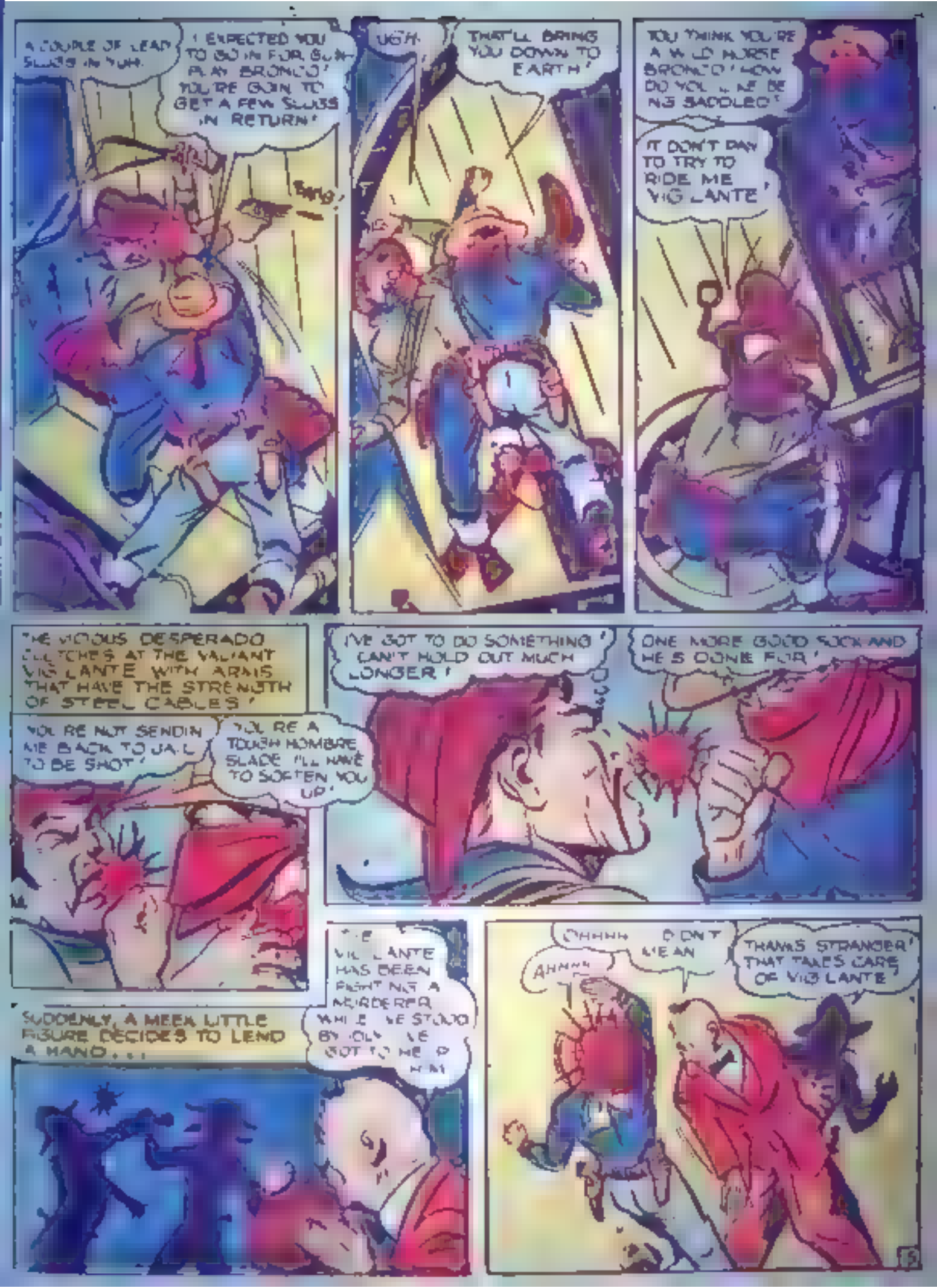
FIRST OF THE SINISTER SKULL'S HENCHMEN TO STRIKE, **BRONCO BLADE** IS QUICK TO SCORE WITH SAVAGE SUCCESS! DEVISING A DIABOLICAL DOUBLE-EDGED SCHEME, HE ENTANGLES THE VIGILANTE IN ITS VILE MESHES...AND DEATH STARES THE WARRIOR OF THE PLAINS IN THE FACE, AS THE DARING DESPERADO COMBINES THEFT AND MURDER TO PERPLEX THE POLICE, AND UNLEASH THE LAW AGAINST ITS OWN ENFORCER IN

"THE CASE OF THE CRIMINAL VIGILANTE!"

I'D PUT HER IN HER PLACE! I'D CAPTURE BRONCO SLADE AND GET THE REWARD! I'D DO ANYTHING I WANTED...
BRONCO SLADE ESCAPES
ON DAY SET FOR EXECUTION!
$5,000 REWARD!
SUDDENLY, AS HE STARES THROUGH THE KITCHEN WINDOW, ROSCOE'S EYES NEARLY POP OUT OF HIS HEAD...
WHY, THERE'S THE VIGILANTE HIMSELF! I'LL BET HE'S ON THE TRAIL OF BRONCO SLADE!
GET GOIN' YOU LAZY CRITTER!
NO, HE'S HEADING FOR THE STABLES WHERE SPINAWAY IS BEING KEPT! I GUESS HE WANTS TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE FAMOUS HORSE!
AT THE STABLES, THE FAMILIAR-CLAD FIGURE IS GREETED WITH OPEN ARMS!
THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LOOK AT SPINAWAY, PARDNERS! THERE NEVER WAS A HORSE LIKE HIM!
YOU'RE WELCOME, VIGILANTE! COME RIGHT THIS WAY!
HERE HE IS, VIGILANTE! ISN'T HE A BEAUTY?
HE SHORE IS, PARDNER!! I GOT A HANKERIN' TO STRADDLE THE CRITTER MYSELF! MIND IF I TRY 'IM?
A QUICK VAULT TO THE THOROUGHBRED'S BACK... AND THEN... AN AMAZING SCENE TAKES PLACE...
THINK I'LL KEEP THE HOSS, PARDNER! HERE ARE A COUPLE OF LEAD SLUGS IN PAYMENT!
AHHHHHH...
GALLOPING AT BREAKNECK SPEED, HORSE AND RIDER CLEAR ALL OBSTACLES TO REACH THE OPEN ROAD...
ANY OTHER VARMINT THAT TRIES TO INTERFERE WILL GIT THE SAME MEDICINE!
AHHHH...

WHILE NEARBY AN ASTOUNDED HERO-WORSHIPPER STANDS AGAPE!
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE LAST ONE! THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW ME NOW!
THE VIGILANTE A MURDERER AND THIEF! I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES, BUT STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I BET IT'S A THIEF DISGUISED AS HIM! AIN'T IT'S BRONCO SLADE! HE ALWAYS STOLE HORSES!
I'LL FOLLOW AND MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO CAPTURE HIM AND COLLECT THAT REWARD GOLLY WON'T MY WIFE BE SURPRISED!
MEANWHILE, DEEMING HIMSELF SAFE FROM PURSUIT BRONCO SLADE—WHO IS INDEED THE SPINAWAY VIGILANTE—HEADS FOR A PREPARED HIDEAWAY.
BUT IN A LOCAL THEATRE WHERE GREG SANDERS, THE PRAIRIE TROUBADOUR, IS MAKING A PERSONAL APPEARANCE.
SOME SIDEWINDER HAS DISGUISED HIMSELF AS ME AND COMMITTED MURDER! I'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST IF I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET AWAY WITH IT!
THE VIGILANTE KILLED THREE MEN AND RODE OFF ON SPINAWAY!
THIS'LL PUT THE VIGILANTE OUT OF THE WAY! HE'LL HAVE A HARD TIME TRYING TO HIDE HIMSELF OUT OF THE FRAME OF THE DEAD MAN! ALL ADEPTS HIM AT SIGHT! HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOW HIMSELF!
HEADING FOR THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
THE POLICE ARE WATCHING ALL ROADS FOR AN AN ON A PALE HORSE! IT WON'T BE EASY TO GET SPINAWAY PAST THEM! BUT I'LL HAVE TO BE ALERT, FOR TRICKS!
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS CRIME BUSTING CAREER THE WARRIOR OF THE PLAINS FINDS HIMSELF IN CONFLICT WITH LAW AND ORDER!
STOP!
SORRY BOYS, HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO EXPLAIN. I'LL BE BACK AFTER TRAPPING COYOTE!
75

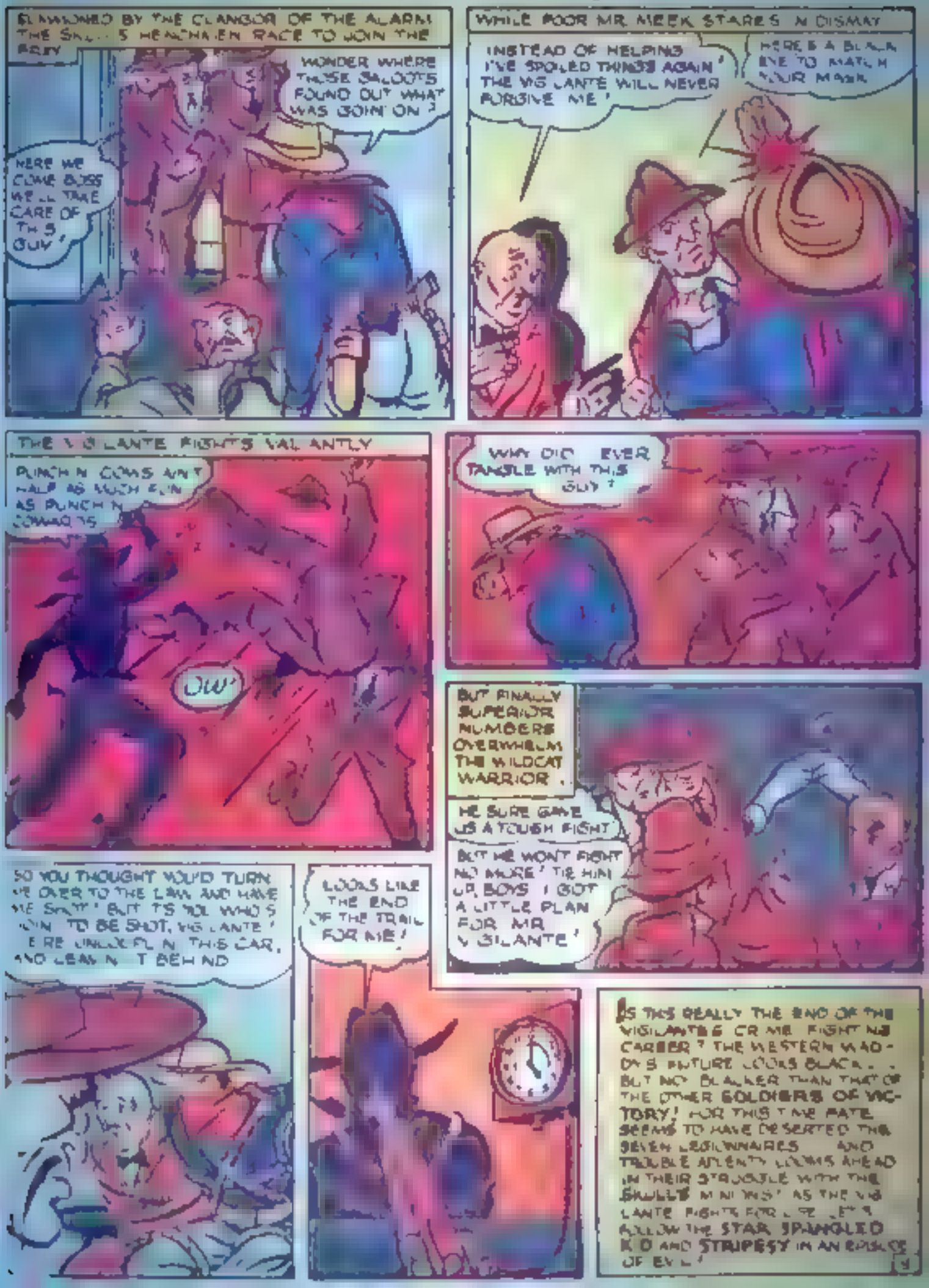
BETTER STOP VIGILANTE OR HE'LL SHOOT
HE TAKEN AN CHANCES WITH BULLETS BEFORE AND I'LL TAKE ESPECIALLY WITH BOSS YOU'RE GOIN FOR A REAL RIDE
UP A STEEP, ALMOST IMPASSABLE TRAIL THE WESTERN WADDY LEADS THE WAY!
I CAN'T AM STRAIGHT WITH ALL THIS B BOUNCIN'
THIS MACHINE BUCKS BETTER THAN A WILD MUSTANG! COULD BE IN A RODEO!
THIS HILL IS TOO STEEP FOR ME!
EVEN AN OLD GOAT WOULD HAVE TROUBLE CLIMBING IT! HOW DOES HE DO IT?
SORRY YOU'RE NOT COMIN ALONG BOYS! I'LL SEE YOU ON THE WAY BACK!
OVER THE RISE OF THE HILL RACES THE VIGILANTE! AND THEN FAR AHEAD
THAT MASON'S BLOCKING THE ROAD BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO GO AROUND IT.
WONDER WHERE THE FAKE VIGILANTE WENT TO? I THOUGHT I COULD STAY ON HIS TRAIL, BUT I COULDN'T!
THAT DRIVER LOOKS FAMILIAR, AND THAT HORSE ON THE RIGHT SIDE - HMM THINK I'M NOT GOING TO GET OFF THE ROAD AFTER ALL!
IT'S VIGILANTE!
AND YOU'RE BRONCO SLADE KNOWING THAT THE POLICE WOULD BE LOOKING FOR A THOROUGHBRED YOU DISGUISED SPINAWAY TO LOOK LIKE A TRUCK HORSE!
UNDER VIGILANTE'S DEFT FINGERS THE ANIMAL SHRINKS TO A SLEEK SHADOW OF ITS FORMER SELF!
YOU PADDED HIS BODY WITH PARAFFIN, THEN A COAT OF PAINT COMPLETED THE DISGUISE, BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH IT, BRONCO!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN YOU TO STOP ME VIGILANTE

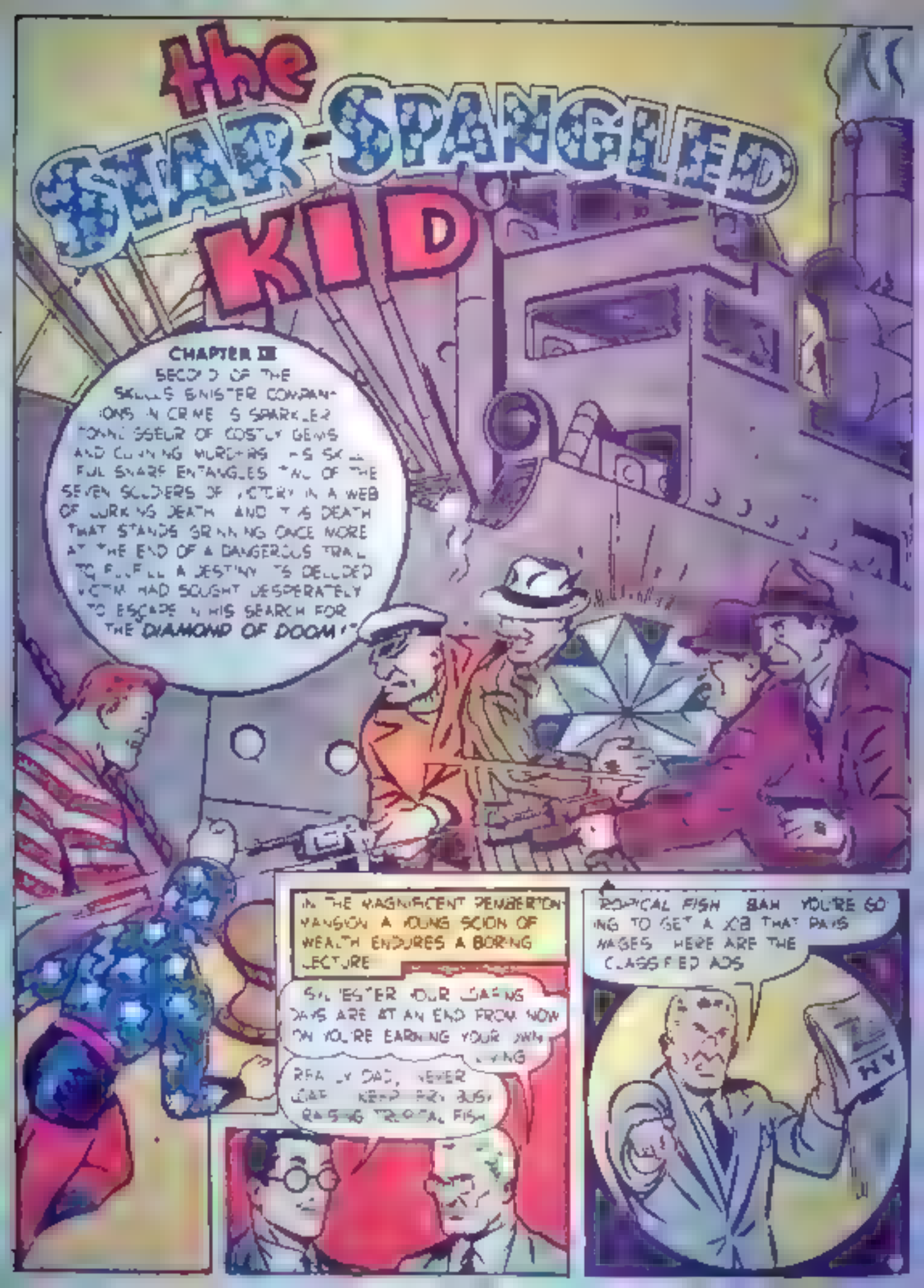

A COUPLE OF LEAD SLUGS IN YUH.
I EXPECTED YOU TO GO IN FOR SOME PLAY BRONCO! YOU'RE GOIN TO GET A FEW SLUGS IN RETURN!
BANG!
UGH.
THAT'LL BRING YOU DOWN TO EARTH!
YOU THINK YOU'RE A WILD HORSE BRONCO! HOW DO YOU LIKE BEING SADDLED!
IT DON'T PAY TO TRY TO RIDE ME VIGILANTE!
THE VICIOUS DESPERADO CLUTCHES AT THE VALIANT VIGILANTE WITH ARMS THAT HAVE THE STRENGTH OF STEEL CABLES!
YOU'RE NOT SENDIN ME BACK TO JAIL TO BE SHOT!
YOU'RE A TOUGH HOMBRE SLADE I'LL HAVE TO SOFTEN YOU UP!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!
ONE MORE GOOD SOCK AND HE'S DONE FOR!
SUDDENLY, A MEEK LITTLE FIGURE DECIDES TO LEND A HAND...
THE VIGILANTE HAS BEEN FIGHTING A MURDERER WHILE HE STOOD BY. OH, HE GOT TO HELP HIM
OHHHH I DON'T MEAN AHHHH
THANKS STRANGER! THAT TAKES CARE OF VIGILANTE

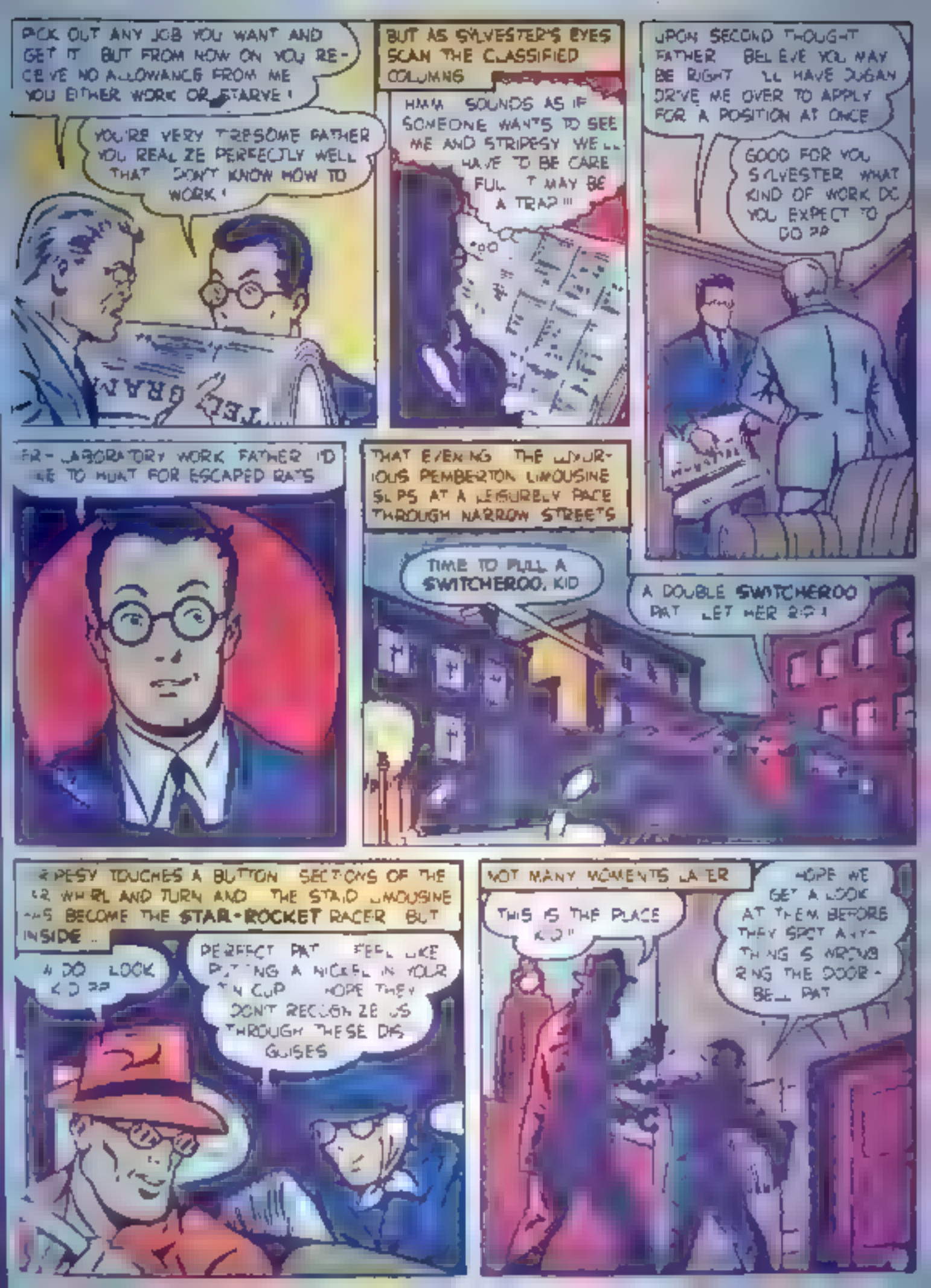
POOR ROSCOE MEEK RECEIVES A REWARD HE DID NOT EXPECT!
THEY WILL LEARN YUH NOT TO TANGLE WITH TROUBLE!
AHHHH
I'LL LEAVE THE VIGILANTE HERE WHERE THE POLICE WILL BE ABLE TO PICK HIM UP!
MEANWHILE, I'LL DELIVER SPINAWAY TO THE SHERIFF AND PAY OFF MY DEBT TO HIM!
MOMENTS LATER
I DON'T KNOW SLADE COULD BE SO HARD AS THAT!
IT WAS WHO'D OF YOU VIGILANTE BY MISTAKE I'M SORRY! I WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU!
NEVER MIND FRIEND LET BYGONES BE BYGONES WE'LL CATCH THAT SIDEWINDER YET!
IT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY THAT VIGILANTE WHEN I'D SOMETHING WRONG AT HOME MY WIFE W... NEVERLETHE VEGET IT!
SOON THE WESTERN WIND AND HIS NEWFOUND FRIEND ARE HOT ON THE TRAIL ONCE MORE!
THIS 'ANUSE ON WHEELS WILL GO FASTER THAN ANY HOSSFLESH HOLD ON TIGHT FRIEND!
NEVER B-BODE ONE OF THESE B BEFORE! D-DON'T G-GO T-TOO F-FAST V-VIGILANTE!
...TH MR. PARTNER
YES VIGILANTE I WISH MY WIFE COULD ONLY SEE MINE A NOW
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT BRONCO SLADE COMING THIS WAY! HE KILLED THESE POLICEMEN! BUT WE'RE GOING TO PUT AN END TO HIS CAREER!
WHAT IS WE NEED TO DO TO US WHAT'S WE'VE C CATCH HIM VIGILANTE?

A MAN ON A HORSE RODE THAT WAY, VIGILANTE! TOWARD THE RAILROAD!
THANKS SON! YOU'RE A LAD THAT NEEDS HIS EYES OPEN!
BUT AT THE RAILROAD, THE FUGITIVE TRAILS TO AN
THE ONLY PLACE SLADE COULD HIDE THAT HORSE WOULD BE A FREIGHT CAR, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE TRAIN IN SIGHT AND THAT'S FOR PASSENGERS!
BUT PRIZE RACE HORSES SOMETIMES HAVE PRIVATE CARS!
YOU'RE RIGHT PARDNER I'M GOIN' TO HAVE A LOOK AT THAT TRAIN, BEFORE IT START'S!
WHILE IN A LUXURIOUS PRIVATE CAR.
I GOT SPINAWAY TO YOU ALL RIGHT SAHIB! NOW WHERE DO YE'S!
YOU HAVE DONE YOUR JOB WELL! IF THE OTHERS CARRY OUT MY ORDERS AS YOU HAVE, SHALL HAVE EVERY THING DESIRE!
WHAT DON'T GET, SKULL? WHY I WASN'T TRAILED HERE BY THE COPS! THE MEN WORKING ON THIS TRAIN SAW ME A DE N HERE ON SPINAWAY!
AH SLADE YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF THE POWER OF WEALTH THIS IS MY PRIVATE TRAIN! WHILE YOU ARE HERE YOU ARE IN NO DANGER
BUT THE OVER-CONFIDENT CRIMINALS COUNT THEIR CHICKENS TOO SOON
'TS THE FIGHTIN' COWPUNCHER AGAIN!
YOU'RE SEEING RIGHT, BRONCO — BUT YOU WON'T BE WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOU!
OUT OF MY WAY, DEATH'S HEAD! I'M GOIN' TO DIG MY SPURS INTO A MEAN MUSTANG
HERE'S WHERE I FINISH THE JOB STARTED LAST TIME!

FLAILING FISTS POUND A FIERCE TATTOO AGAINST THE OUTLAW'S FACE
YOU'RE SLOW ON THE DRAW BRONCO! BULLETS CAN'T HURT ME SO LONG AS THEY'RE IN YOUR GUN!
YOU'RE CROWIN TOO SOON VIGILANTE!
YOU'RE FORGETTIN' THAT A BRONCO HAS A POWERFUL KICK!
UGGH
WHILE THE FURIOUS COMBAT RAGES TWO MR. MEEK TACKLED THE TERRIFYING BRUTE!
I'M SCARED BUT I HAVE TO ACT BRAVE. LIKE VIGILANTE! IF MY WIFE COULD ONLY SEE ME NOW
YOU INSIGNIFICANT RUNT HOW DARE YOU
ANOTHER NUT! I'LL BE STRONGER THAN THOUGHT
TAKE THAT VIGILANTE
CRACK!
AS LITTLE MR MEEK EYES FEVERISHLY SEARCH THE SKULL'S LUXURIOUS CAR
I'VE GOT TO HELP VIGILANTE! BUT LAST TIME I TRIED IT HURT HIM! MAYBE BETTER NOT INTERFERE!
I HAVE TO PULL THE SWITCH AND BRING HELP
THAT DOES IT! AFTER THAT PUNCH BRONCO YOU'RE GOING TO BE MIGHTY TAME!
RRRRRING
AHHHH


SUMMONED BY THE CLANGOR OF THE ALARM THE SKULL'S HENCHMEN RACE TO JOIN THE FRAY
WONDER WHERE THOSE SKULLOOTS FOUND OUT WHAT WAS GOIN' ON?
HERE WE COME BOSS WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS GUY!
WHILE POOR MR. MEEK STARES IN DISMAY
INSTEAD OF HELPING I'VE SPOILED THINGS AGAIN! THE VIGILANTE WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME!
HERE'S A BLACK EYE TO MATCH YOUR MASK
THE VIGILANTE FIGHTS VALIANTLY
PUNCHIN' COWS AIN'T HALF AS MUCH FUN AS PUNCHIN' COWARDS
OW!
WHY DID I EVER TANGLE WITH THIS GUY?
BUT FINALLY SUPERIOR NUMBERS OVERWHELM THE WILDCAT WARRIOR.
HE SURE GAVE US A TOUGH FIGHT
BUT HE WON'T FIGHT NO MORE! TIE HIM UP, BOYS! I GOT A LITTLE PLAN FOR MR. VIGILANTE!
SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D TURN ME OVER TO THE LAW AND HAVE ME SHOT! BUT IT'S YOU WHO'S GOIN' TO BE SHOT, VIGILANTE! I'M UNCOUPLIN' THIS CAR, AND LEAVIN' IT BEHIND
LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR ME!
IS THIS REALLY THE END OF THE VIGILANTE'S CRIME FIGHTING CAREER? THE WESTERN MADMAN'S FUTURE LOOKS BLACK... BUT NO BLACKER THAN THAT OF THE OTHER SOLDIERS OF VICTORY! FOR THIS TIME FATE SEEMS TO HAVE DESERTED THE SEVEN LEGIONNAIRES AND TROUBLE AHEAD LOOMS AHEAD IN THEIR STRUGGLE WITH THE SKULL'S MINIONS! AS THE VIGILANTE FIGHTS FOR LIFE LET'S FOLLOW THE STAR SPANGLED KID AND STRIPESY IN AN EPISODE OF EVIL!

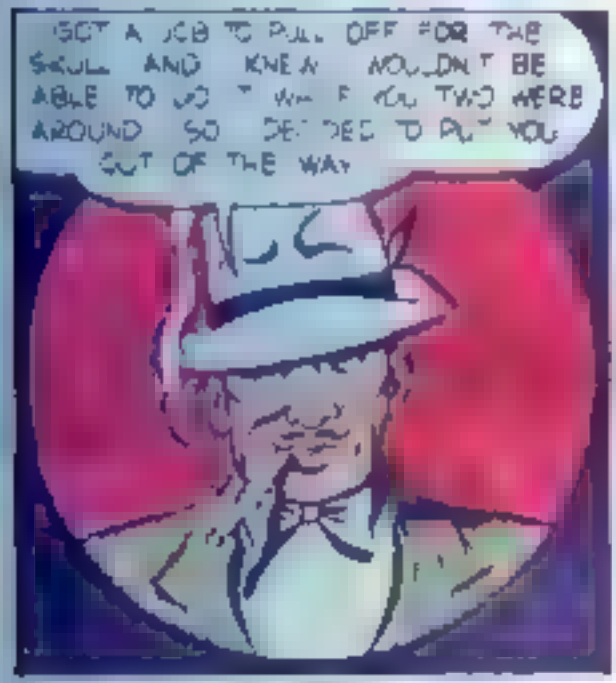

the STAR-SPANGLED KID
CHAPTER III
SECOND OF THE SKULL'S SINISTER COMPANIONS IN CRIME'S SPARKLER TONNELEUR OF COSTLY GEMS AND CUNNING MURDERS HIS SKILLFUL SNARE ENTANGLES ONE OF THE SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY IN A WEB OF LURKING DEATH AND THIS DEATH THAT STANDS GRINNING ONCE MORE AT THE END OF A DANGEROUS TRAIL TO FULFILL A DESTINY IS DECLINED VICTIM HAD SOUGHT DESPERATELY TO ESCAPE IN HIS SEARCH FOR THE DIAMOND OF DOOM!
IN THE MAGNIFICENT PEMBERTON MANSION A YOUNG SCION OF WEALTH ENDURES A BORING LECTURE
SYLVESTER YOUR CARING DAYS ARE AT AN END FROM NOW ON YOU'RE EARNING YOUR OWN LIVING
REALLY DAD, I NEVER DREAMED I'D KEEP FROM BUSY RAISING TROPICAL FISH
TROPICAL FISH SAM YOU'RE GOING TO GET A JOB THAT PAYS WAGES HERE ARE THE CLASSIFIED ADS
NY

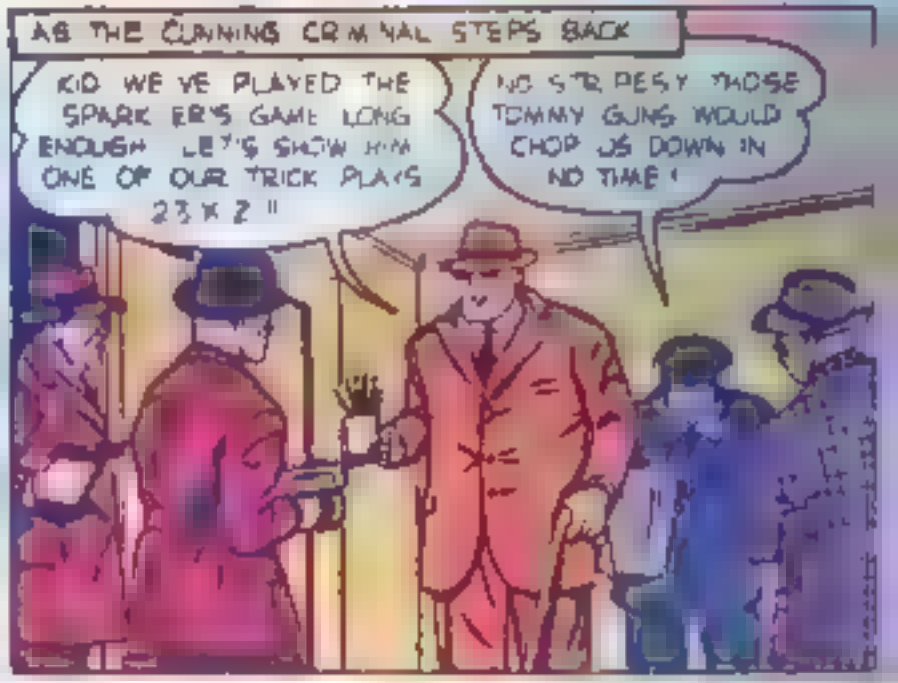

PICK OUT ANY JOB YOU WANT AND GET IT BUT FROM NOW ON YOU RECEIVE NO ALLOWANCE FROM ME YOU EITHER WORK OR STARVE!
YOU'RE VERY TIRESOME FATHER YOU REALIZE PERFECTLY WELL THAT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WORK!
BUT AS SYLVESTER'S EYES SCAN THE CLASSIFIED COLUMNS
HMM SOUNDS AS IF SOMEONE WANTS TO SEE ME AND STRIPESY WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL IT MAY BE A TRAP!!!
UPON SECOND THOUGHT FATHER BELIEVE YOU MAY BE RIGHT I'LL HAVE DUGAN DRIVE ME OVER TO APPLY FOR A POSITION AT ONCE
GOOD FOR YOU SYLVESTER WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU EXPECT TO DO??
LABORATORY WORK FATHER I'D LIKE TO HUNT FOR ESCAPED RATS
THAT EVENING THE LUXURIOUS PEMBERTON LIMOUSINE SLIPS AT A LEISURELY PACE THROUGH NARROW STREETS
TIME TO PULL A SWITCHEROO, KID
A DOUBLE SWITCHEROO PAT LET HER GO!
STRIPESY TOUCHES A BUTTON SECTIONS OF THE CAR WHEEL AND TURN AND THE STAID LIMOUSINE HAS BECOME THE STAR-ROCKET RACER BUT INSIDE..
I DO LOOK ALL RIGHT??
PERFECT PAT FEEL LIKE PUTTING A NICKEL IN YOUR TIN CUP HOPE THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE US THROUGH THESE DISGUISES
NOT MANY MOMENTS LATER
THIS IS THE PLACE ALL RIGHT
HOPE WE GET A LOOK AT THEM BEFORE THEY SPOT ANYTHING STRANGE RING THE DOOR-BELL PAT

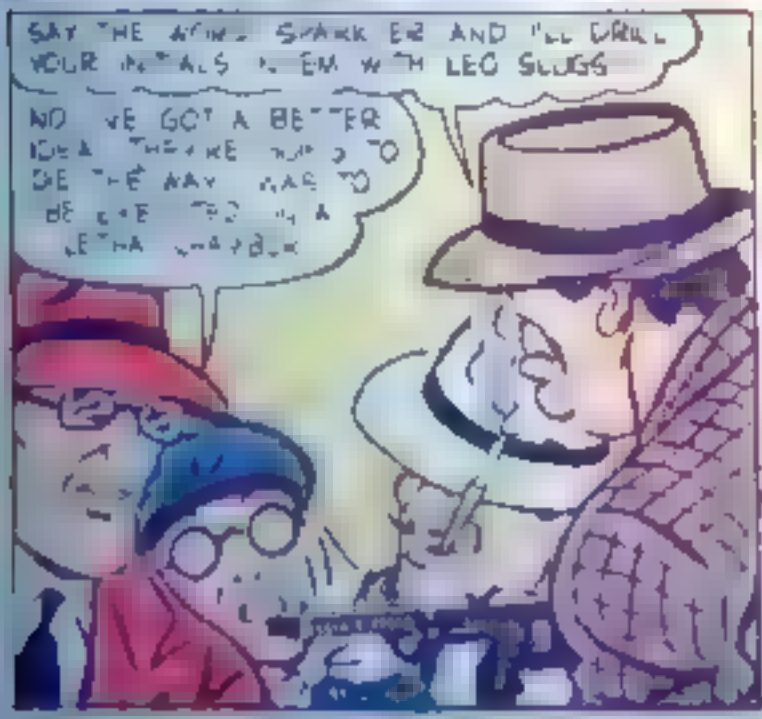
THE [illegible] SLOWLY BACK
[illegible] PLEASE HELP THE BLIND SIR
CERTAINLY COME WITH ME
HE LOOKS HARMLESS ENOUGH

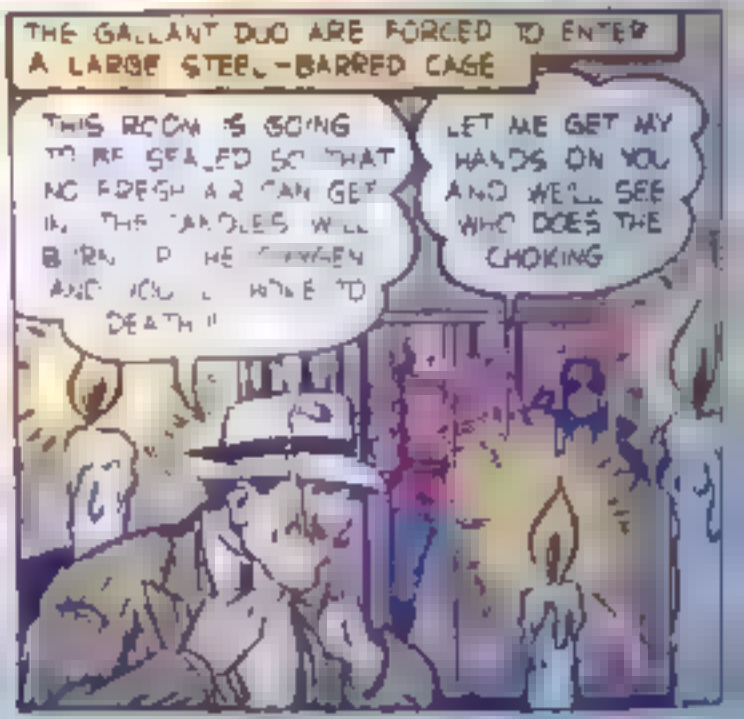
IF YOU WAIT HERE A MOMENT I'LL GET YOU SOME MONEY
THANK YOU SIR
THAT OLD MAN IS BEGINNING TO LOOK FAMILIAR

WITH STARTLING SUDDENESS A REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE
SURE KID IS ME WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU THOSE DISGUISES DON'T FOOL ME I HAD ONE ON MYSELF
SPARKLER!


I GOT A JOB TO PULL OFF FOR THE SKULL AND KNEW WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT WHILE YOU TWO WERE AROUND SO DECIDED TO PUT YOU OUT OF THE WAY


AS THE CUNNING CRIMINAL STEPS BACK
KID WE'VE PLAYED THE SPARKLER'S GAME LONG ENOUGH LET'S SHOW HIM ONE OF OUR TRICK PLAYS 23 X 2 !!
NO STRESSY THOSE TOMMY GUNS WOULD CHOP US DOWN IN NO TIME!


SAY THE WORD SPARKLER AND I'LL DRILL YOUR PALS FULL OF LEAD SLUGS
NO WE'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA THEY'RE GOING TO BE THE WAY WAS TO BE GIVEN TO A LETHAL GAS


THE GALLANT DUO ARE FORCED TO ENTER A LARGE STEEL-BARRED CAGE
THIS ROOM IS GOING TO BE SEALED SO THAT NO FRESH AIR CAN GET IN THE CANDLES WILL BURN DOWN THEN AND YOU'LL HAVE TO DEATH!!
LET ME GET MY HANDS ON YOU AND WE'LL SEE WHO DOES THE CHOKING

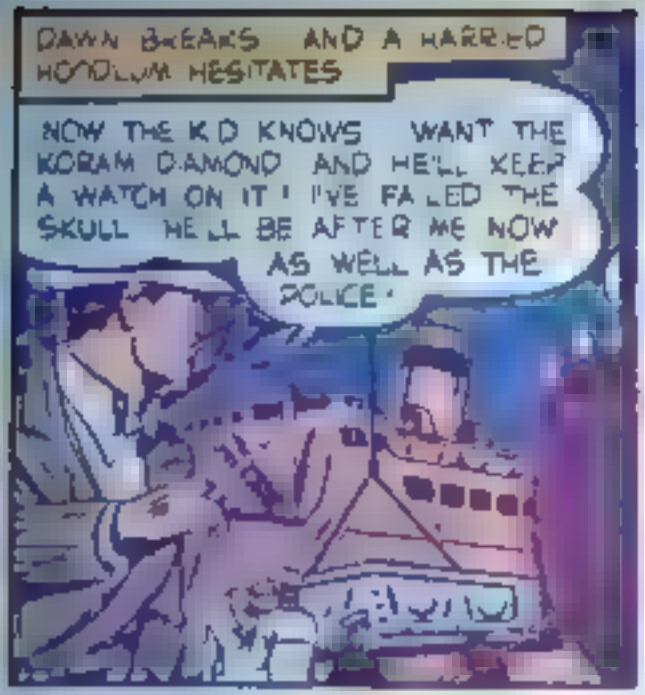
WHEN WAS K.D. USED TO KILL MICE THE SAME WAY PUT EM UNDER A GLASS JAR AND LIGHT A CANDLE SO LONG RATS
AS THE CANDLES BURN FOUL CHOKING AIR FILLS THE STUFFY ROOM
NO WAY OF BLOWING THOSE THINGS OUT, STRIPESY! IF WE EXPECT TO LAST ANY LONGER IT'LL HAVE TO BE WITHOUT BREATHING
YEAH--AND JUST WHEN WE GOT A LEAD TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PAPER PICKED OUT OF SPARKLER'S POCKET WHILE HE WAS NEAR THE BARS AND I WAS SEARCHING FOR A KEY!
IT'S A MAP OF THE KIMBERLY MANSION AND MRS KIMBERLEY OWNS THE FAMOUS EORAM DIAMOND THAT LEAVES A TRAIL OF DEATH BEHIND IT!
THAT'S WHAT HE'S GOTTA DO FOR THE SKULL HUH? WE COULD STOP HIM IF WE COULD GET OUTA HERE! THINK KID. THINK
THE STAR-SPANGLED KID'S BRAIN STARTS CLICKING AND
GOOD BOY SPARKLER FORGOT THAT WE COULD MOVE THIS THING AROUND FROM THE INSIDE!
WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT WINDOW! A LITTLE MORE ACTION
AH FRESH AIR IT SMELLS FUNNY!
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT AFTER A WHILE KID BUT NOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE NOW?
IF WE CAN TURN THIS CAGE OVER AGAIN TOWARD THOSE CANDLES WE CAN DO THE TRICK
SECONDS LATER
THESE CANDLES COME IN HANDY THE HEAT WEAKENS THE STEEL ENOUGH SO THAT YOU CAN BEND THE BARS COME ON STRIPESY
UGH THEY'RE GIVING WAY BUT IT'S A TOUGH JOB

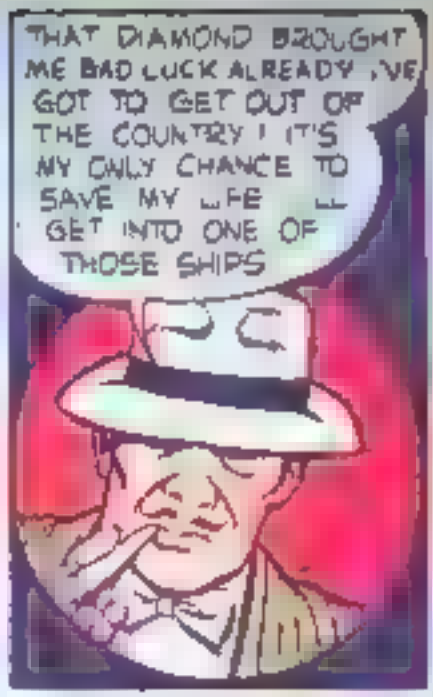
SPRING THROUGH THE BARS THE ALL-AMERICAN DUO SPEEDS FOR THE KIMBERLY MANSION
KID HERE'S WHERE WE PLAY A RETURN ENGAGEMENT WITH SPARKLER I'M GONNA MAKE HIM SEE PIX WHEELS IN FRONT OF HIS EYES
HOW'S HE GOING TO STEAL THAT DIAMOND THOUGH MRS KIMBERLY'S HAVING A PARTY TONIGHT AND THE PLACE IS FULL OF GUARDS? I'M GOING AS A GUEST SWITCHEROO!
THE STAR-ROCKET RACER BECOMES A STAID LIMOUSINE ONCE MORE! AND SOON
SYLVESTER DEAR YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T COMING I'M SO GLAD YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND!
OH, THOUGHT I MIGHT GET A CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE MRS KIMBERLY! (WONDER WHEN AND HOW SPARKLER IS GOING TO SHOW UP?)
THE YOUNG SCION OF WEALTH PRETENDS TO TAKE PART IN THE FESTIVITIES
YOU MUST ADMIRE MRS KIMBERLY VERY MUCH SYLVESTER YOU HARDLY EVER TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HER
ER-YES- I THINK SHE'S VERY BRIGHT SHE POSITIVELY GLITTERS SHE'S NOT WEARING THE FATAL KIRAM DIAMOND IT MUST BE IN THE SAFE UPSTAIRS
AT THAT MOMENT OUTSIDE THE HOUSE
THERE'S SHOOTING GOING ON COME ON, BOYS, WE'LL GET THOSE CROOKS
CRACK!
BANG!
CLANK!
MEANWHILE BACK AT THE HOUSE
OUT OF MY WAY FROZEN-FACE
SPARKLER AT LAST SO ALL THAT NOISE WAS JUST A TRICK TO LURE THE GUARDS AWAY HERE'S WHERE THE FUN BEGINS
KEEP QUIET, EVERYBODY AND YOU WON'T GET HURT! LET OUT A PEEP AND WE'LL BUY A COFFIN
OH DEAR MY KNEES ARE TREMBLING MUST REST
DON'T BE SUCH A COWARD SYLVESTER! THEY WON'T HURT YOU!
FIRECRACKERS! WE'VE BEEN FOOLED
BA BA!
3

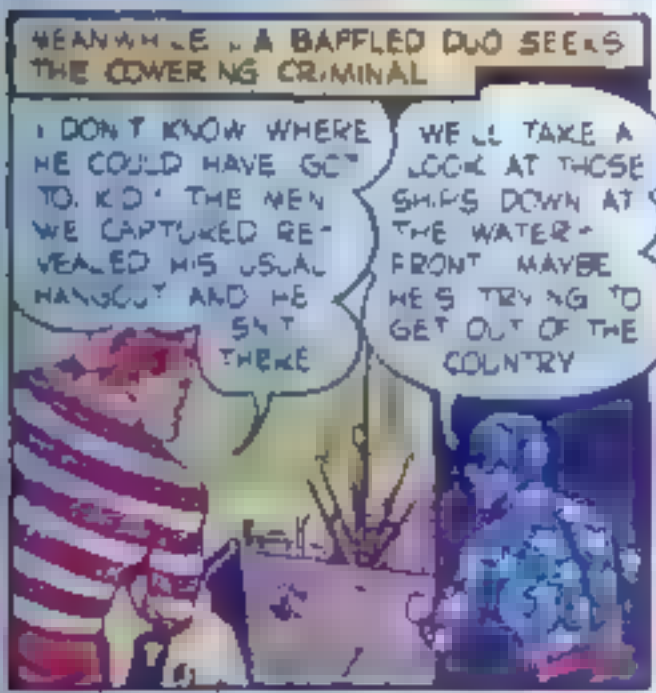
ONLY THIS WALL KEEPS ME UP I'VE GOT TO DOUSE THOSE LIGHTS AND PULL A SWITCHEROO !
SUDDEN BLACKNESS ENVELOPS [redacted] REVELRY !
CLICK
HEY WHO THREW THAT SWITCH ?
I'VE GOT TO GET TOGETHER WITH PATU SIGNAL 24 M !
HELP !! THE ROOF'S CAVIN' IN !!
IN A MINUTE THE FLOOR'S GOING TO STAND UP AND HIT YOU CHUM TAKE A REST
APSIN
YOU CALL THE PLAYS KID I'LL KNOCK THEM FOR A GOAL
SUDDENLY .. THE DAZZLING GLEAM OF LIGHTS ONCE MORE ILLUMINATES THE TURBULENT SCENE
DO YOU SEE THE SAME THING DON'T SEE KID ? SPARKLER IS GONE
HE'S AFTER THE KORAM DIAMOND UP-STAIRS STRIPESY
HEY, YOU GUYS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD !!
WE PACK A SOLID PUNCH FOR GHOSTS, SPARKLER
THAT ONE TO THE JAW WAS A GEM SPARKLER WITHOUT A FLAW
AND HERE'S A LITTLE DOC-DAD THAT GIVES OFF STARS

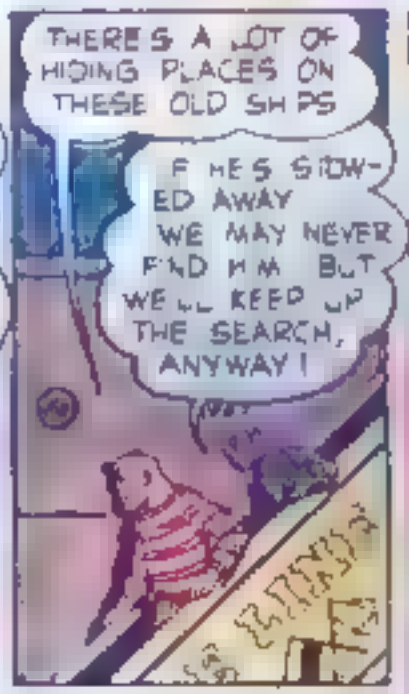
SUDDENLY
KID THEY'VE PULLED YOUR TRICK OF SWITCHING OUT THE LIGHTS!
WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON ONCE MORE
THEY'RE GONE BUT THEY DIDN'T GET THE KORAM DIAMOND
NO BUT THEY'LL BE BACK FOR IT
SPARKLER MAY KNOW THAT DIAMOND BRINGS BAD LUCK BUT HE'S GOT TO GET IT FOR THE SKULL, WHOEVER HE IS SO WE'LL MAKE SURE WE KNOW WHEN SPARKLER RETURNS!
NIGHTS LATER A ROW OF SINISTER FIGURES STEALS ALONG A PATH LEADING TO THE KIMBERLY MANSION
THIS TIME THE PLACE WILL BE QUIET STRIPESY AND THE KID WON'T BE AROUND TO BUTT IN SPARKLER!
BUT A STEALTHY FOOTSTEP FALLS UPON A ROCK EMBEDDED IN THE PATH
AND THE MOMENTARY PRESSURE SETS OFF AN ALARM WHICH REGISTERS ON A DISTANT RADIO SET
THAT ALARM! SPARKLER IS UP TO HIS DIRTY WORK AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!
I'M SORRY, GIRLS, I'LL HAVE TO RETURN AND CONTINUE MY STUDIES IN TROPICAL FISH! I KNOW I'M BEING IMPOLITE BUT I CAN'T HELP IT!
A FEW SECONDS LATER
NEVER MET ANYONE SO RUDE IN MY LIFE!
IMAGINE ANY ONE PREFERRING TO STUDY TROPICAL FISH RATHER THAN SEEING THE OPERA WITH US!
AND STILL LATER
STEP ON IT, PAT! WE'VE GOT TO HAND SPARKLER THAT SURPRISE!
SURE KID BUT I'M WARNING YOU THOSE GIRLS WILL NEVER HAVE ANY USE FOR SYLVESTER PEMBERTON AFTER THIS!

THE STAR-ROCKET RACER RISES INTO THE AIR TO HOVER OVER THE KIMBERLY MANSION
THEY'RE TRYING TO GET IN THROUGH A WINDOW
WE'LL SPOIL THEIR GAME AND LAND ON THE ROOF STRIPESY
THE ROCKET RACER COMES TO REST ON THE ROOF AND TWIN THUNDERBOLTS STRIKE TERRIFYINGLY AT THE THUGS
THEY'RE A BUNCH OF WALLFLOWERS STRIPESY!
THE CLIMBING IVY TYPE
MORE THE POISON IVY KIND, STRIPESY BUT CAN DISH OUT A LITTLE POISON MYSELF
KNOW THE KIND YOU MEAN KID JUST HANDED THIS FELLOW A FISTFUL OF T
OVERWHELMED BY THE SHOCK OF SURPRISE MOST OF THE LOBSTERS MEEKLY SURRENDER!
SPARKLER ISN'T HERE KID THE RESTARE SMALL FRY WHAT DO WE DO? TURN THEM OVER TO THE POLICE?
RIGHT STRIPESY AND THEN WE GO AFTER SPARKLER
AT THAT MOMENT STRIPESY'S EAGLE EYES PICK OUT A PHANTOM-LIKE FIGURE FLITTING ACROSS THE PATH
THERE HE IS KID HE GOT AWAY WHILE WE WERE TAKING CARE OF HIS GANG
BUT IN THE BLACKNESS OF NIGHT THE CRIME CHIEFTAIN ELUDES HIS PURSUER
CAN'T SEE HIM ANY MORE IT'S TOO DARK WE'LL HAVE A TOUGH TIME NOW TRYING TO FIND HIM


DAWN BREAKS AND A HARRIED HOODLUM HESITATES
NOW THE K.O KNOWS I WANT THE KORAM DIAMOND AND HE'LL KEEP A WATCH ON IT! I'VE FAILED THE SKULL HE'LL BE AFTER ME NOW AS WELL AS THE POLICE!

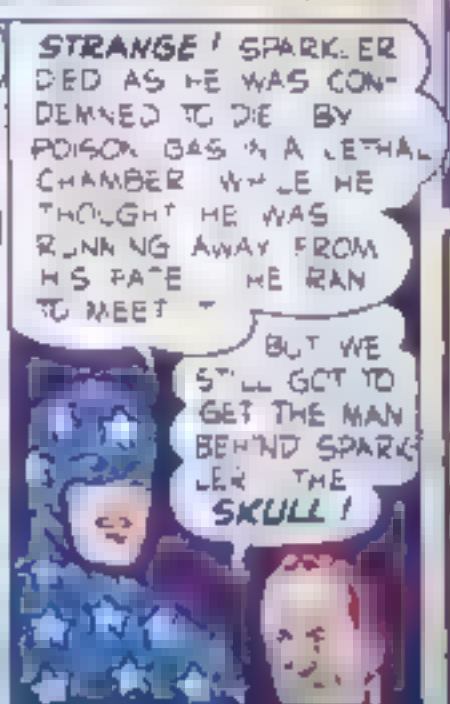

THAT DIAMOND BROUGHT ME BAD LUCK ALREADY. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE MY LIFE I'LL GET INTO ONE OF THOSE SHIPS


MEANWHILE, A BAFFLED DUO SEEKS THE COWERING CRIMINAL
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE COULD HAVE GOT TO. K.O.' THE MEN WE CAPTURED REVEALED HIS USUAL HANGOUT AND HE ISN'T THERE
WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE SHIPS DOWN AT THE WATER-FRONT MAYBE HE'S TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY

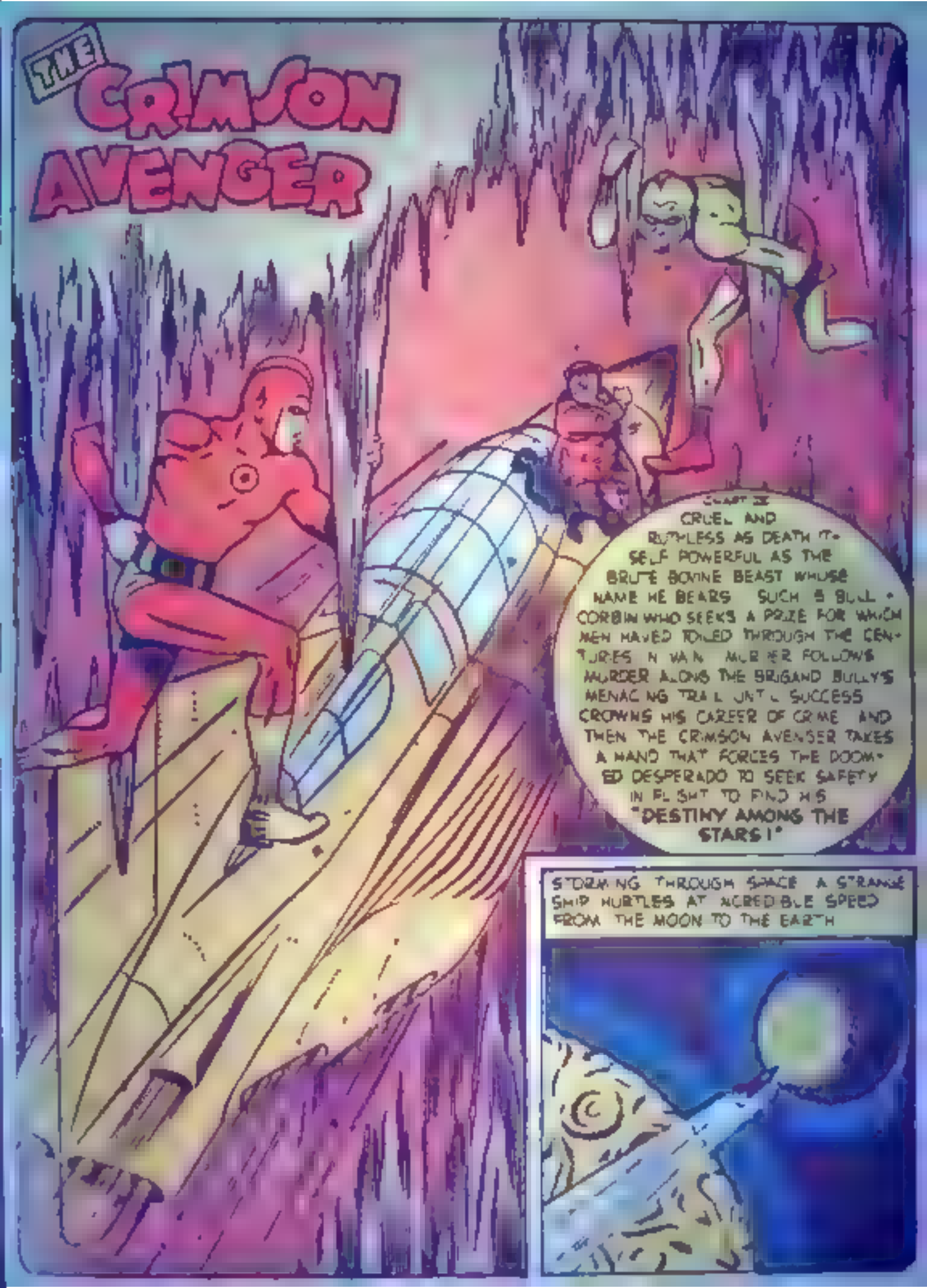


AS A DISAPPOINTING DAY DRAWS TO A CLOSE.
WE'VE VISITED EVERY SHIP IN THE HARBOR, EXCEPT THE ONE BEING FUMIGATED AND THERE ISN'T A SIGN OF SPARKLER!
WAT! WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE BY THE STEAMER?

IT'S SPARKLER! AND HE'S DEAD! THE KORAM DIAMOND BROUGHT HIM BAD LUCK AFTER ALL
THAT SHIP WAS BEING FUMIGATED TO KILL RATS THE POISON FUMES KILLED HIM

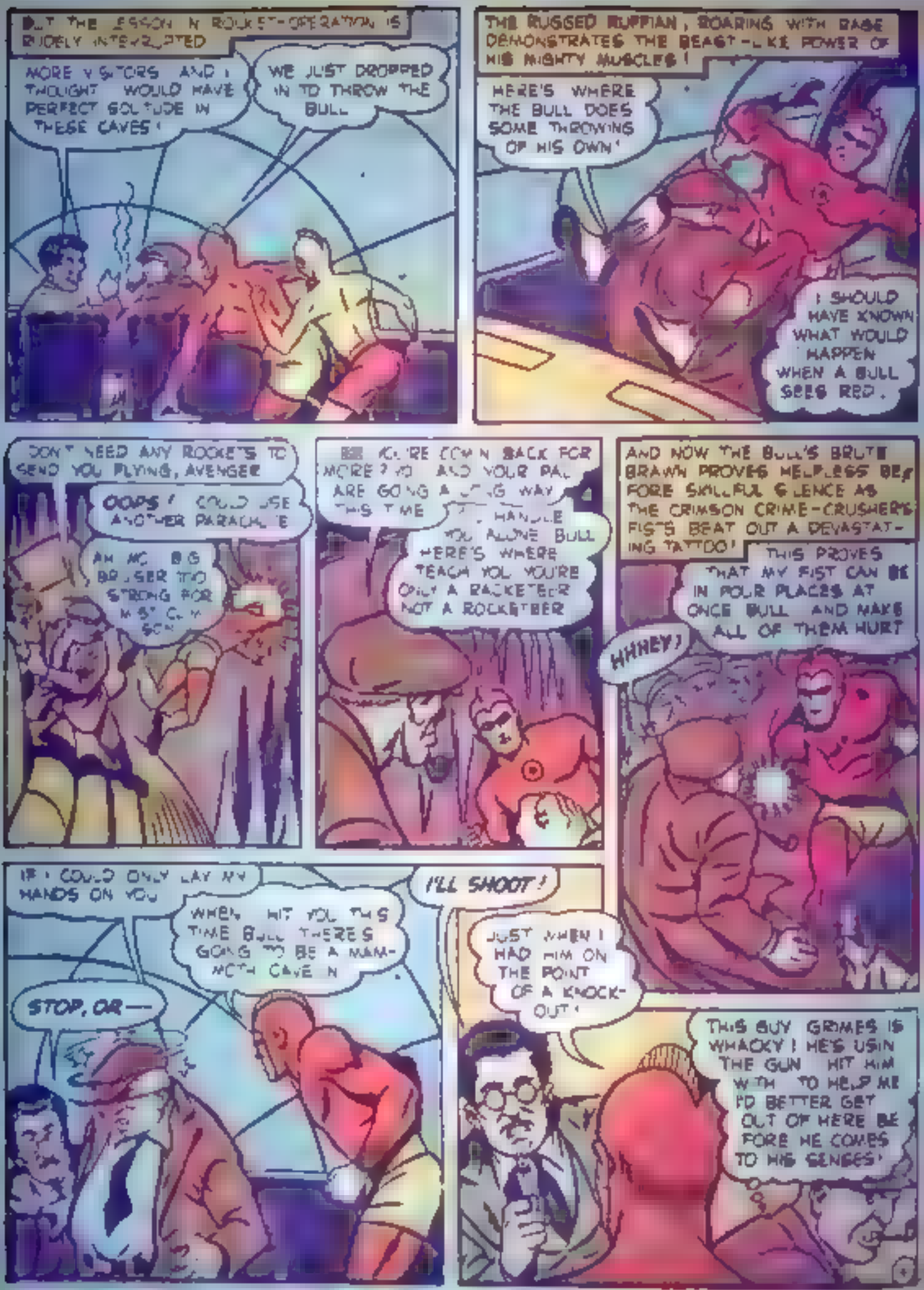

STRANGE! SPARKLER DIED AS HE WAS CONDEMNED TO DIE BY POISON GAS IN A LETHAL CHAMBER WHILE HE THOUGHT HE WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM HIS FATE HE RAN TO MEET -
BUT WE STILL GOT TO GET THE MAN BEHIND SPARKLER THE SKULL!

THE COMRADES IN COMBAT EVEN UP THE SCORE FOR THE GALLANT LEGIONNAIRES **BUT** WILL THE VIGILANTE **ESCAPE** FROM THE DESPERADO P CAN THE **SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY** MEET THE THREAT OF THE SINISTER SKULL..READ ON TO FIND THE SOLUTION TO THIS MAZE OF DEATH


THE CRIMSON AVENGER
CHAPT II
CRUEL AND RUTHLESS AS DEATH IT-SELF POWERFUL AS THE BRUTE BOVINE BEAST WHOSE NAME HE BEARS SUCH IS BULL-CORBIN WHO SEEKS A PRIZE FOR WHICH MEN HAVED TOILED THROUGH THE CENTURIES IN VAIN MURDER FOLLOWS MURDER ALONG THE BRIGAND BULLYS MENACING TRAIL UNTIL SUCCESS CROWNS HIS CAREER OF CRIME AND THEN THE CRIMSON AVENGER TAKES A HAND THAT FORCES THE DOOMED DESPERADO TO SEEK SAFETY IN FLIGHT TO FIND HIS "DESTINY AMONG THE STARS!"
STORMING THROUGH SPACE A STRANGE SHIP HURTLES AT INCREDIBLE SPEED FROM THE MOON TO THE EARTH

WITHIN THE SHIP OF EDWARD GRIMES IS SOLITARY PASSENGER GUIDES ITS COURSE ..
EVERYBODY LAUGHED AT ME BUT ALL THE SAME THE SHIP IS A SUCCESS! I'M THE FIRST HUMAN BEING TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON NOW TO RETURN HOME AND MAKE A FEW CHANGES
ABOVE THE WEIRD MAMMOTH CAVES OF KENTUCKY A STONE ROOF GAPES OPEN AT THE VESSEL'S APPROACH , AND THE SHIP NESTLES GENTLY WITHIN A VAST VAULT
SOON, I'LL MAKE ANOTHER TRIP, A LONGER ONE THIS TIME I'LL STOCK THE SHIP WITH FOOD AND EVERYTHING ELSE I NEED
BUT IN THE SHADOWS OF THE COLOSSAL CAVE
THIS JOB THE SKULL GAVE ME IS EASY ! THIS GUY DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DEFEND HIMSELF!
OKAY, PAL ! YOU'VE BEEN TO THE MOON NOW TAKE A LOOK AT SOME STARS!
AHHH
THESE CONTROLS LOOK COMPLICATED. THE SKULL DIDN'T TELL ME HOW TO WORK IT LET ME SEE WHICH BUTTON DO I PUSH FIRST ?
MEANWHILE, HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY, EDITOR LEE TRAVIS SCANS A NEWS FLASH
SO CORBIN HAS BEEN SEEN IN KENTUCKY PROWLING ABOUT MAMMOTH CAVES TOO BAD THE POLICE COULDN'T PICK HIM UP
HE WAS TOO TRICKY FOR THEM ! THEY LOST HIS TRAIL
SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR ME AND WING WE'D BETTER ROUND UP CORBIN BEFORE HE DOES MORE DAMAGE !
THE POST

HOURS LATER ... IN A HUGE AIRLINER
WONDER WHAT CORBIN IS DOING IN KENTUCKY? VE HEARD REPORTS OF ROCKET SHIP EXPERIMENTS THERE
MAYBE CORBIN TLY ESCAPE FROM POLICE GO TO MOON
TWO PASSENGERS DROP OFF AT AN UN SCHEDULED STOP
THERE ARE MANY ENTRANCES TO THE CAVES BELOW US IF CORBIN HID IN THEM WE'LL NEVER FIND HIM!
BATS HIDE IN CAVES! CORBIN NO BATS NOT YET
YES, STRANGER IT'S EASY TO GET LOST IN MAMMOTH CAVE I WOULDN'T ENTER IT WITHOUT A GUIDE IF I WERE YOU
DON'T THINK BULL CORBIN HAS A GUIDE HOW DOES HE MANAGE NOT TO GET LOST?
CORBIN MUST HAVE A LANDMARK THAT WAY WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THE PLACE WHERE THOSE ROCKET SHIP EXPERIMENTS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT!
WAIT TILL FOURTH OF JULY, SEE PLENTY OF LOCKETS!
AS THE CRIMSON CRIME-CRUSHER AND HIS FAITHFUL ALLY DRAW NEAR A BAFFLED BANDIT FINDS HIMSELF BALKED BY THE COMPLEXITIES OF SCIENCE!
NO MATTER WHAT DO. CAN'T START THIS SHIP! LUCKY I DIDN'T KILL GRIMES I'LL REVIVE HIM AND HAVE HIM HANDLE THE CONTROLS FOR ME!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHO ARE YOU?
NEVER MIND WHO I AM YOU'LL SHOW ME HOW TO OPERATE THAT SHIP OR ELSE!
VERY WELL FIRST YOU MUST CLEAR THE ROCKET CHAMBERS! THEN YOU SWITCH ON THE REAR ROCKETS FIRST!
NOW YOU'RE TALKING BUDDY! GO ON!

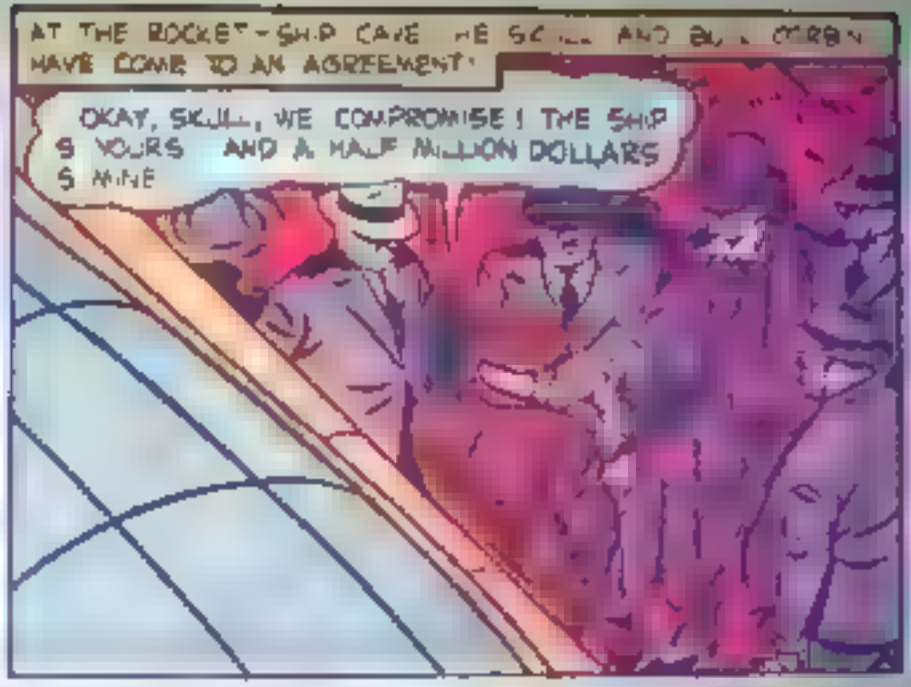

BUT THE LESSON IN ROCKET-OPERATION IS RUDELY INTERRUPTED
MORE VISITORS AND I THOUGHT WOULD HAVE PERFECT SOLITUDE IN THESE CAVES!
WE JUST DROPPED IN TO THROW THE BULL
THE RUGGED RUFFIAN, ROARING WITH RAGE DEMONSTRATES THE BEAST-LIKE POWER OF HIS MIGHTY MUSCLES!
HERE'S WHERE THE BULL DOES SOME THROWING OF HIS OWN!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN A BULL SEES RED.
DON'T NEED ANY ROCKETS TO SEND YOU FLYING, AVENGER
OOPS! COULD USE ANOTHER PARACHUTE
AH MC BG BRUISER TOO STRONG FOR MS' CAPTAIN SON
YOU'RE COMIN BACK FOR MORE? SO AND YOUR PAL ARE GOING A LONG WAY THIS TIME
I'LL HANDLE YOU ALONE BULL HERE'S WHERE I TEACH YOU YOU'RE ONLY A RACKETEER NOT A ROCKETEER
AND NOW THE BULL'S BRUTE BRAWN PROVES HELPLESS BEFORE SKILLFUL SILENCE AS THE CRIMSON CRIME-CRUSHERS FISTS BEAT OUT A DEVASTATING TATTOO!
THIS PROVES THAT MY FIST CAN BE IN FOUR PLACES AT ONCE BULL AND MAKE ALL OF THEM HURT
WHHEY!
IF I COULD ONLY LAY MY HANDS ON YOU
WHEN I HIT YOU THIS TIME BULL THERE'S GOING TO BE A MAMMOTH CAVE IN
STOP, OR—
I'LL SHOOT!
JUST WHEN I HAD HIM ON THE POINT OF A KNOCK-OUT!
THIS GUY GRIMES IS WHACKY! HE'S USIN THE GUN HIT HIM WITH TO HELP ME I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE COMES TO HIS SENSES!

IF YOU HIT HIM AGAIN YOU'LL KNOCK HIM AGAINST THE INSTRUMENT PANEL AND RUIN THE ROCKET SHIP CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN
BUT THIS MAN IS A DANGEROUS MURDERER
THE BURLY BANDIT SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE
OUT OF MY WAY BUDDY
HE'S GETTING AWAY! HE'LL LOSE HIM SELF IN THE CAVE
HOURS LATER AFTER A LONG SEARCH THROUGH GLOOMY TUNNELS
NO JOE WE'RE HUNDREDS OF MILES OF TUNNELS IN THESE CAVES! A MAN COULD HIDE OUT HERE FOR YEARS
BUT BLUE NOT GO FAR FROM ROCKET SHIP MUST CLIMSON
I DON'T THERE IS THE ESCAPE OF DEATH BE-HIND HER AGAINST HARD ROCK
HEAR NOISE FEW FEET AHEAD MAYBE WE FIND BLUE AFTER ALL
IF WE DO WE WON'T LET HIM ESCAPE THIS TIME!
BIG HIS PRINT IN DUST MUST BE BLUE
FINDING THAT IS REAL COINCIDENCE!
COINCIDENCE? LITTLE DOES THE AVENGER KNOW
MAYBE WE CATCH BLUE BY SURPRISE, MUST CLIMSON!
HA THE AVENGER DOESN'T REALIZE I LEFT THAT FOOTPRINT TO DRAW HIM INTO A TRAP! JUST A FEW FEET MORE
SUDDENLY THERE IS THE RENDING ROAR OF EXPLODING DYNAMITE!
CAVES EXPLODE NO WAY TO GET OUT!
THAT GIVES THE AVENGER NOW TO GET THE ROCKET SHIP AGAIN AND THIS TIME 'LL KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT!

MOMENTS LATER
YOU AGAIN
THANKS FOR SHOWIN' ME HOW TO HANDLE THE SHIP, AND HELPIN ME GET AWAY FROM THE AVENGER! CAME TO PAY YOU BACK
WITH THIS BULLET!
AHHH...
CRACK!
BUT NOW THE GREED FOR GOLD DANGLES ITS GLITTERING LURE BEFORE THE GRASPING MIND OF THE MURDEROUS GANGSTER
THE SKULL WANTS THIS SHIP, AND I'M WILLING TO TURN IT OVER TO HIM BUT I'LL HAVE TO GET PAID MONEY MEANS NOTHING TO THE SKULL I'LL ASK FOR A MILLION DOLLARS!
LATER THE SKULL IN HIS PALATIAL RETREAT RECEIVES A TELEGRAM
SO CORBIN IS TRYING TO HOLD ME UP I'LL TEACH HIM THAT IT DOESN'T PAY
I SHALL USE MY MILLIONS TO PUNISH CORBIN NOT TO REWARD HIM!
AS IN THE WORLD ABOVE DAY DRAWS TO A CLOSE THE SKULL AND THE HARDENED HOODLUM MEET IN THE CAVERNS OF ETERNAL GLOOM!
I'VE BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME, SKULL! DID YOU BRING THAT MILLION DOLLARS?
YES, CORBIN, I BROUGHT IT!
THE MONEY MEANS NOTHING TO ME, BUT I DON'T LIKE BEING DOUBLE-CROSSED! THE WHOLE MILLION WILL GO TO THOSE WHO PUNISH YOU!
YEAH? THOSE GUYS AIN'T GONNA LIVE LONG SKULL!

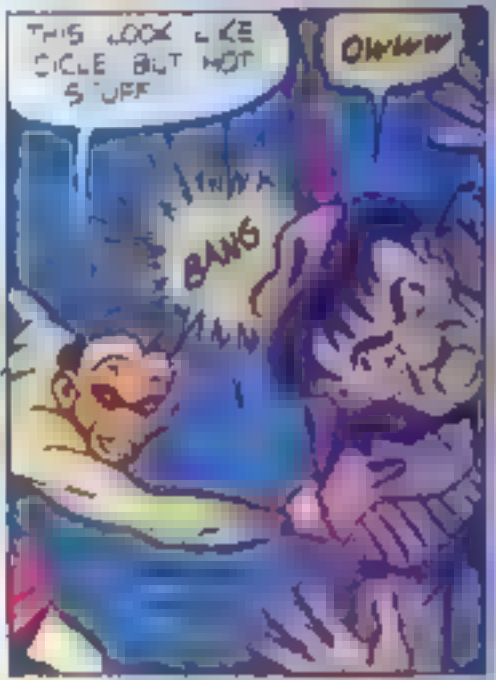
HERE'S ONE GUY WHO WON'T TOUCH THAT MILLION DOLLARS!
AHHH
AND HERE'S ANOTHER ONE! YOU MAY BE AFRAID OF DEATH SKULL BUT YOU'RE GOING TO SEE PLENTY OF IT BEFORE I'M THROUGH
UGH
THE SKULL'S HENCHMEN CRIES AND TURN BACK!
GET HIM YOU FOOLS YOU'RE FOUR AGAINST ONE
THEY WERE SIX TO ONE TO START WITH IT AIN'T ENOUGH ODDS AGAINST A GUY LIKE BULL CORBIN SKULL! IF YOU WANT THIS SHIP BETTER HAND OVER THAT DOUGH!
BUT MEANWHILE
TOO BAD WE GOBLINS SOMETHING TO EAT MIST CRIMSON WING SO HUNGRY, COULD EAT HORSE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT EATING WING WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE OR YOU'RE THROUGH WITH FOOD FOR GOOD!
WE'VE BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH TO HAVE USED UP PLENTY OF OXYGEN BUT THAT TORCH BURNS AS BRIGHTLY AS EVER SOMEHOW FRESH AIR MUST BE GETTING TO US!
AND IF THERE'S A WAY FOR FRESH AIR TO GET IN THERE'S A WAY FOR US TO GET OUT HOLD YOUR TORCH HIGHER WING
WING HOLD TORCH HIGH LIKE STATUE OF LIBERTY!
THERE'S THE OPENING WING! THERE'S WHERE THE AIR IS COMING FROM!
WE CLIMB UP QUICK MUST CRIMSON!
CLAMBERING UP ON THE CRIMSON-CLAD CRIME-CRUSHER'S SHOULDERS HIS FAITHFUL ALLY WORKS TO ENLARGE THE OPENING TO SAFETY!
LOOKS LIKE NOTHING ELSE UPSTAIRS
WE'LL HAVE TO CLIMB INTO IT FAST AND BEFORE THE TORCH GOES OUT AND WE'RE LEFT IN DARKNESS

NOW TO GET ABOUT THAT ROCKET-SHIP AGAIN. BUT IT MAY BE ALREADY TOO LATE. CORBIN MAY HAVE STOLEN IT AND LEFT
THE BAD FOR-- FINES WERE


AT THE ROCKET-SHIP CAVE, HE SKULL AND BLACK CORBIN HAVE COME TO AN AGREEMENT.
OKAY, SKULL, WE COMPROMISE! THE SHIP IS YOURS AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS IS MINE

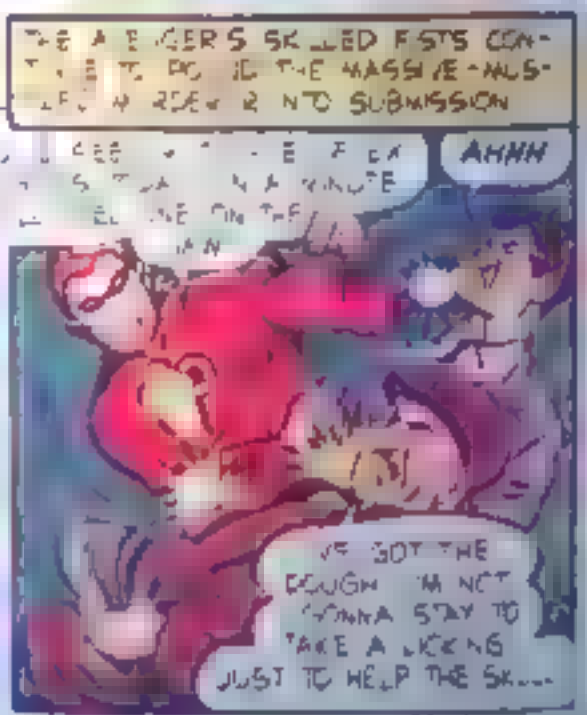
BEFORE NATURE PASS
THE BAD FELLOWS

THROUGH THE
BUT BEFORE
OUR PUNCHES
AVENGER!

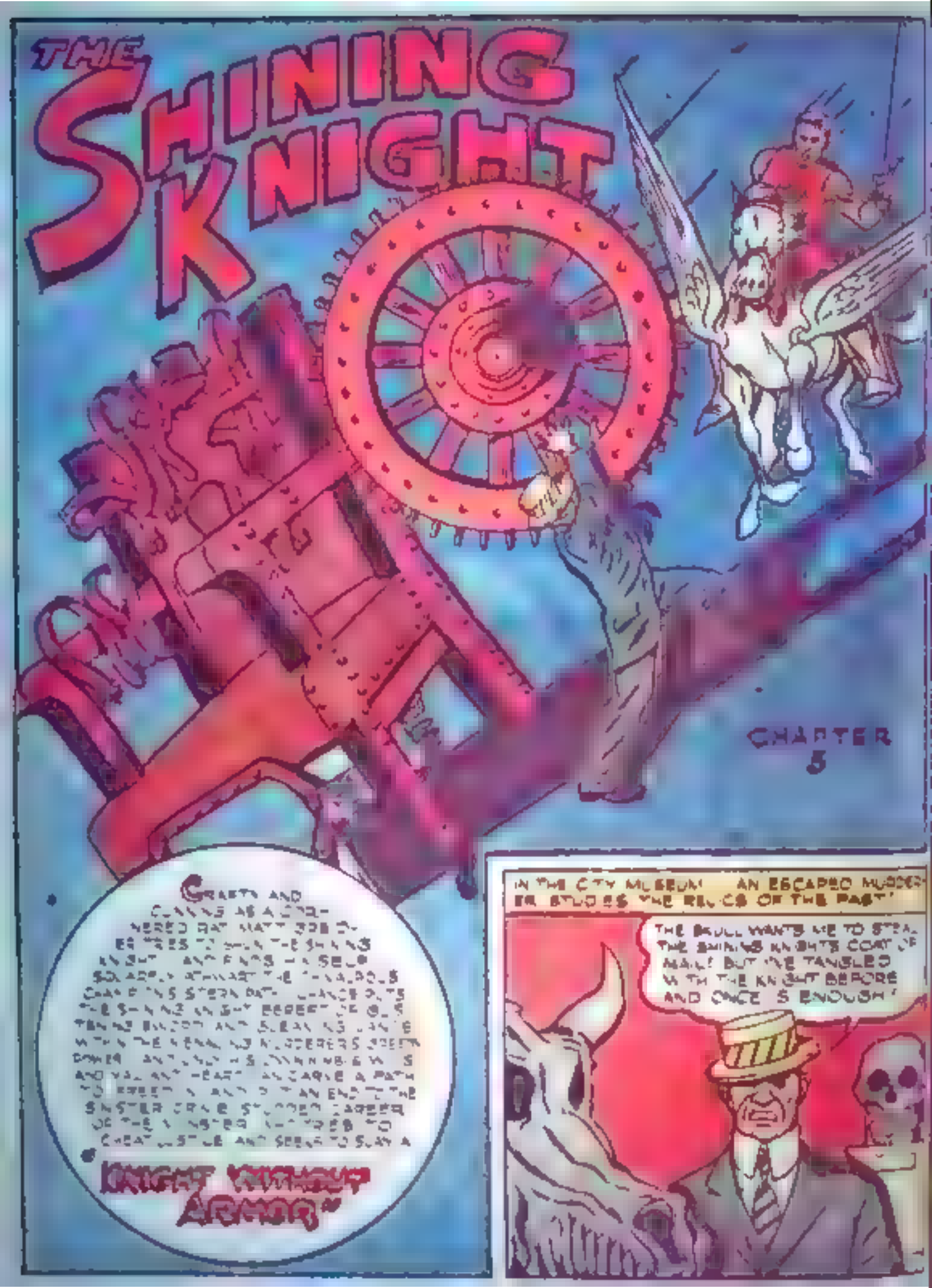

THIS LOOK LIKE
BUT NOT
STUFF
OWWW
BANG

NEVVV !!

LIKE THIS !
OW, THAT'S SHARP


THE AVENGER'S SKILLED FISTS CONTINUE TO PUNISH THE MASSIVE-MUSCLED VILLAIN INTO SUBMISSION
AHHH
WE GOT THE DOUGH I'M NOT GONNA STAY TO TAKE A LICKING JUST TO HELP THE SK---

THE DOUBLY-TREACHEROUS THUG TURNS TO SEEK HIS OWN SAFETY!
NOW'S MY CHANCE FOR A GETAWAY!
THIS SMALL-FRY NOODLUM HAS PICKED A BAD TIME TO PRACTICE SOMER-SAULTS!
SO LONG, AVENGER! TOO BAD YOU CAN'T COME WITH ME!
TRY THE OTHER DOOR WING!
I FLY, MIST CLIMBON!
TH THE ROAR OF ROCKETS THE SHIP RISES INTO THE AIR
OME ALONG AVENGER LL GET A SWELL RIDE
LET GO, WING BEFORE WE GO UP TOO FAR
AH WOS BULL GET AWAY!
AND BY THE TIME WE GET BACK TO THE CAVE THE SKULL WILL BE GONE NEVER MIND WING BULL CORBIN WILL HAVE TO LAND AGAIN AND NEXT TIME WE'LL GET HIM
BUT WITHIN THE RACING VESSEL BULL CORBIN GLOATS AT HIS GOOD FORTUNE
I'VE GOT A HALF MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH RICH AND FREE! LL LAND THIS SHIP DISAPPEAR AND THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY LIFE
AS THE TRIUMPHANT THUG PULLS TROL LEVER
SHIP WON'T TURN GRIMES HAVE GIVEN ME THE WRONG ONES! I CAN'T BACK TO EARTH
TO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT WAS BULL CORBIN CONDEMED AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IS HIS DESTINY FATED TO BE ALONE FOREVER HE SPEEDS ON TOWARD THE STARS
ONCE MORE JUSTICE HAS TRIUMPHED BUT MEANWHILE THE ARCH-VILLAIN HAS ESCAPED THE SKULL REMAINS FREE TO USE THE POWER OF HIS WEALTH AND EVIL

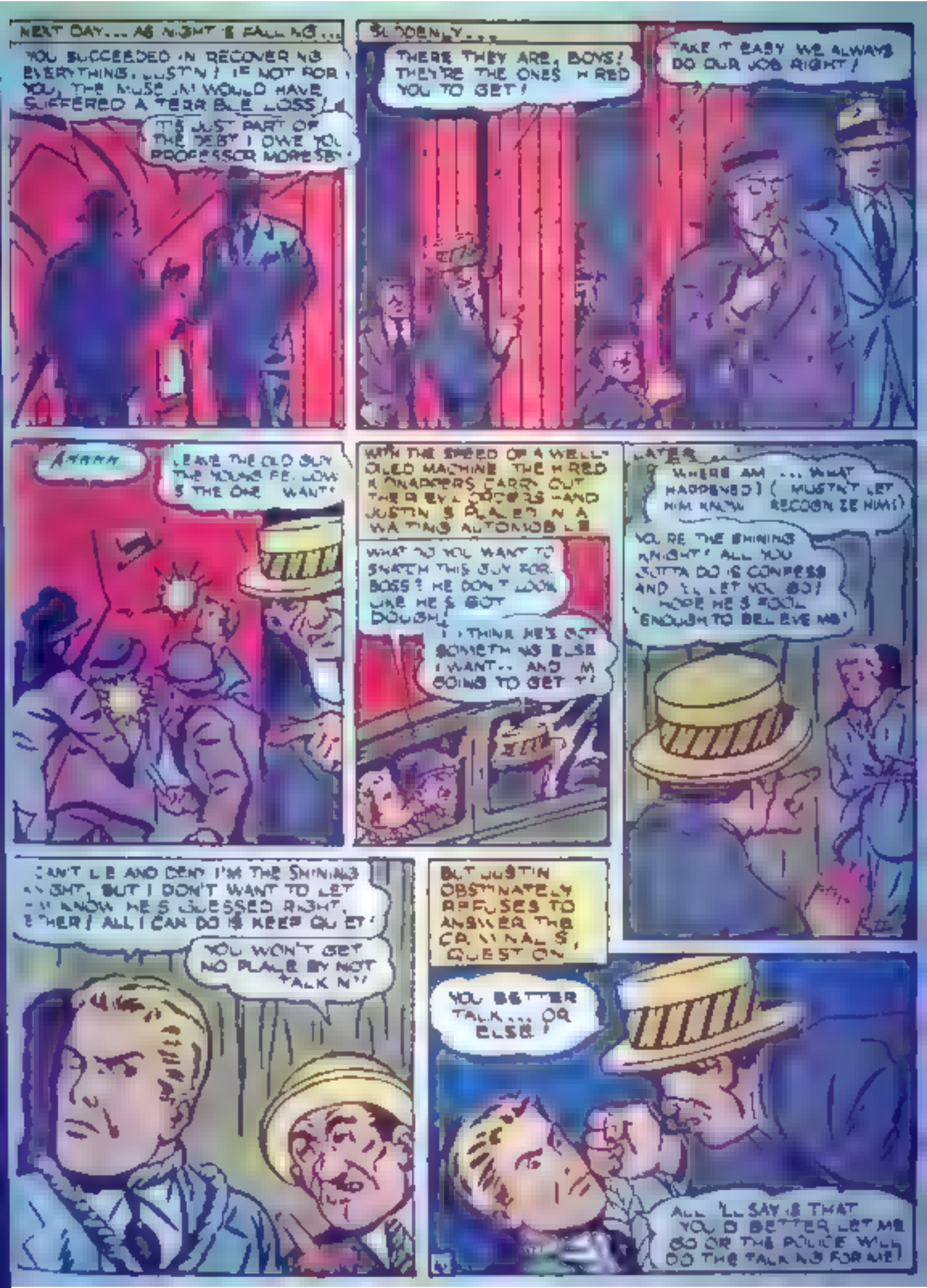

THE SHINING KNIGHT
CHAPTER 5
KNIGHT WITHOUT ARMOR"
IN THE CITY MUSEUM... AN ESCAPED MURDER-ER STUDIES THE RELICS OF THE PAST!
THE SKULL WANTS ME TO STEAL THE SHINING KNIGHTS COAT OF MAIL! BUT I'VE TANGLED WITH THE KNIGHT BEFORE AND ONCE IS ENOUGH!

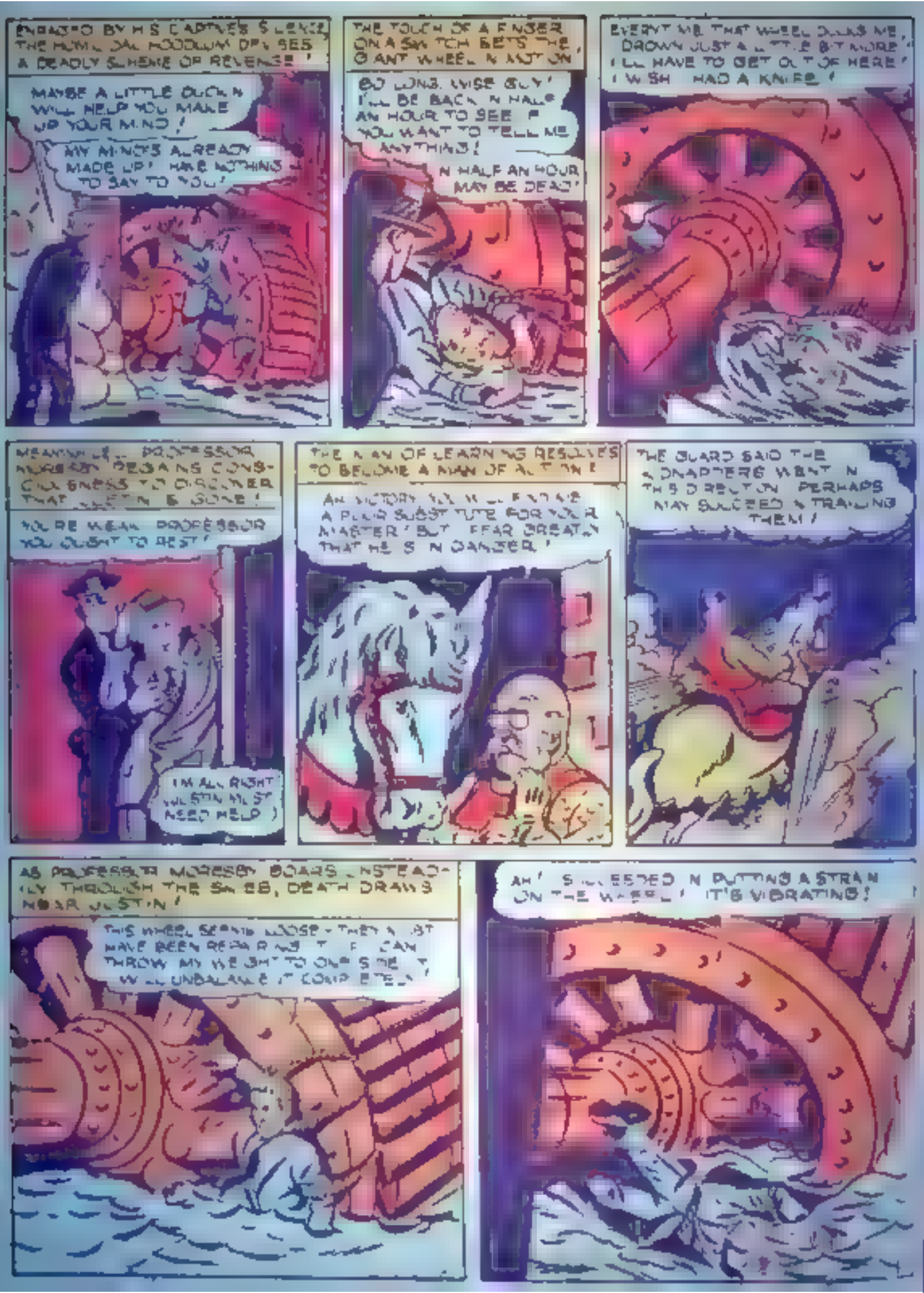
I'LL STEAL SOME ORDINARY ARMOR FROM THIS MUSEUM, AND CLAIM IT'S THE KNIGHT'S! THE SKULL WON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!
JUST TO MAKE SURE NOBODY KNOWS WHY I'M STEALING THE ARMOR, I'LL STEAL A LOT OF OTHER VALUABLE STUFF WITH IT!
STICK WITH ME BOYS AND YOU'LL MAKE ENOUGH DOUGH TO PUT YOU ALL ON EASY STREET!
AW US RIGHT, BOSS AND WE WON'T TALK TO ANYBODY, YOU SAY!
NEXT DAY. TWO LARGE MOVING VANS DRAW UP BEFORE THE CITY MUSEUM...
THIS IS GONNA BE AN EASY JOB! JUST LIKE WE GOT A RIGHT TO TAKE EVERYTHING!
YOU SURE FIGURED IT A SLICK ONE THAT TIME!
THE MUSEUM CURATOR APPROACHES THE DOOR OF THE ARMOR ROOM...
I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO ME ABOUT IT!
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY!
HOWEVER, THIS HAS SIGNATURE SO IT MUST BE ALL RIGHT! GO RIGHT AHEAD!
THE MAN FORGED SIGNATURE HIT! NOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS TAKE THE STUFF!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER THE THIEVES BEGIN TO REMOVE THE MUSEUM'S CHOICEST TREASURES!
THIS STUFF IS WORTH A HUNDRED GRAND! AND THE OLD GUY HANDS IT RIGHT OVER TO US!

WHILE THE THUGS LEAVE A...
TAKE THAT ALONG TOO!
OKAY, BOSS, YOU GIVE THE ORDERS!
BUT MEANWHILE... JUSTIN, WHO HIDES HIS IDENTITY AS THE SHINING KNIGHT BEHIND THE GUISE OF ASSISTANT TO THE CURATOR, PROFESSOR MORESBY, APPROACHES THE MUSEUM...
GREAT SCOTT, [redacted]SOR, THEY'RE REMOVING ALL THE MUSEUM'S MOST VALUABLE POSSESSIONS!
DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF, JUSTIN!
IT'S ALL RIGHT SIR THEY'VE GOT THEM SAFE NOW! THEY'VE JUST MOVED THOSE VALUABLES TO A SAFE PLACE!
THEY WERE SAFE RIGHT HERE
LET'S NOT QUESTION THE WISDOM OF OUR SUPERIORS JUSTIN!
AT THAT MOMENT...
THIS FINISHES THE JOB NOW WE'D BETTER SCRAM!
IT'S MATT SNEIDER, THE ESCAPED MURDERER HE'S THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS
EXCUSE ME PROFESSOR MORESBY, THE SHINING KNIGHT HAS SOME WORK TO DO!
SWIFT SECONDS LATER AT THE STALL BENEATH THE MUSEUM WHERE WINGED VICTORY HIS MAGIC STEED IS HIDDEN...
AH, VICTORY, WE RIDE FORTH ONCE MORE TO FOIL A BASE VARLET'S FOUL PLAN!
HASTE THEE, MY BRAVE STEED, ERE THE TREACHEROUS VILLAINS HIE THEM TO SAFETY!
SOARING HIGH ABOVE THE MUSEUM, THE CHIVALROUS KNIGHT SPIES THE SPEEDING SCOUNDRELS...
AH THERE THEY ARE! NO DOUBT THEY DEEM THEMSELVES SAFE FROM PURSUIT!
BOSS WE GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU FOR FIGURING OUT AN EASY WAY TO GET RICH!

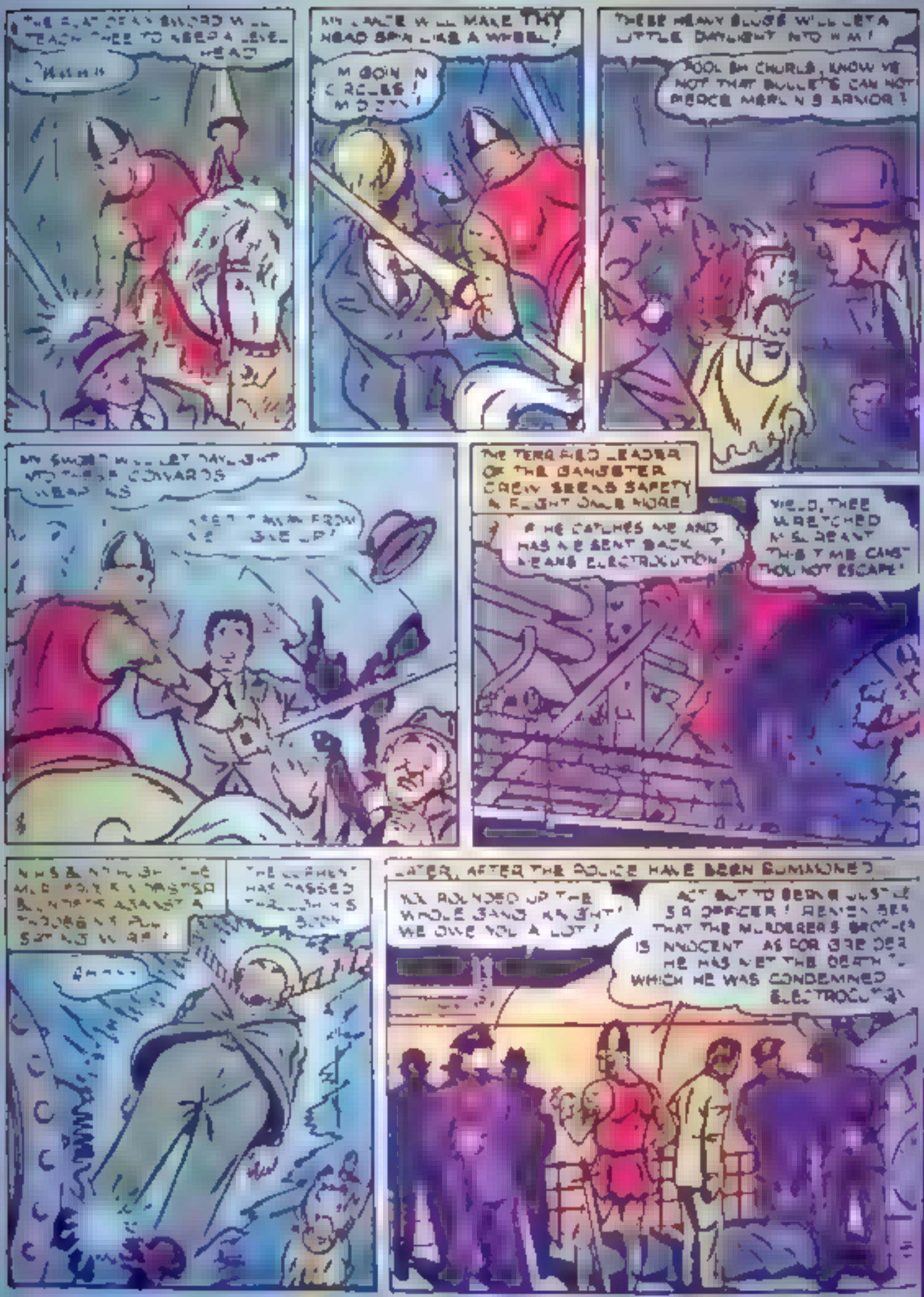
WINGED VICTORY SWOOPS DOWN LIKE AN EAGLE STRIKING AT ITS PREY!
I TRIED TO STAY AWAY FROM THE SHINING KNIGHT, BUT HE FOLLOWED ME ANYWAY! WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
TURN BACK, IGNOBLE VARLETS AND RETURN YOUR ILL-GOTTEN GAINE!
RUN HIM DOWN! HIS ARMOR CAN TURN BULLETS, BUT THE WEIGHT OF THIS TRUCK WILL CRUSH BOTH HIM AND HIS HORSE!
I'M STEPPIN' ON THE GAS, BOSS!
BUT THE KNIGHT'S SWORD POSSESSED OF MAGIC POWERS BY A LITTLE OF ANCIENT MERLIN'S WIZARDRY SHEARS THROUGH METAL AS IF IT WERE CHEESE!
I'LL BE BOLDER WHEN I COMMAND THEE TO STOP, I JEST NOT!
THUS WILL I HANDLE THE OTHER MOVING MONSTER ALSO, SO THAT NEITHER ONE WILL ESCAPE!
BOSS! WE'RE STUCK! WE CAN'T MOVE WITHOUT A MOTOR OR WHEELS!
THE PANIC STRICKEN HOODLUMS SCATTER LIKE FLEEING RATS!
THESE VERMIN FLEE TOO FAST. SHALL BE HARD PUT TO SEIZE THEM ALL!
HEY, THAT THING'S CHOKIN' ME!
"IF THOU HAD THY DESERTS, THOU ROGUE, THOU WOULDST BE CHOKED BY A HEMPEN ROPE!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL GETTIN' TOGETHER AGAIN!
LIE THERE, VILLAINS, WHILE I SEEK THY MURDEROUS MASTER!

BUT THE FEARFUL FELON IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
THE MISCREANT HAS ESCAPED! NOW MUST TURN THE OTHER EVILDOERS OVER TO THOSE WHO WILL DEAL WITH THEM LAWFULLY!
LATER... AFTER THE POLICE HAVE REMOVED THE CAPTURED THUGS...
THIS MUD ALMOST CHOKED ME AND EVERY TIME I LIFTED MY HEAD TO BREATHE, I WAS AFRAID THE KNIGHT WOULD SEE ME! BUT HE'S GONE NOW! AND I'LL HAVE TO FIND A HIDE-OUT!
THAT NIGHT .. AT A HUGE POWER STATION . . .
MY BROTHER IS SUPERINTENDENT OF THIS STATION! HE'S CHANGED HIS NAME SO NOBODY KNOWS WE'RE RELATED! I'LL MAKE HIM TAKE CARE OF ME!
YOU'RE A THIEF AND A MURDERER! THE POLICE ARE AFTER YOU AT THIS MINUTE! I'LL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
LET ME HIDE HERE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS AND I'LL CLEAR OUT AND NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN!
ALL RIGHT BUT JUST FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS! WE'VE GOT SOME REPAIRS TO DO AND I'LL HAVE TO HOLD THINGS UP UNTIL THEN!
INSIDE IN THE HUGE STATION, THE DESPERATE CRIMINAL WOOS SLEEP IN VAIN! THE ROAR OF RUSHING WATER SENDS STRANGE THOUGHTS TUMBLING THROUGH HIS HEAD!
TO HAVE MADE A SUCCESSFUL GETAWAY IF NOT FOR THE KNIGHT! HOW COULD HE HAVE GOT WISE?
THAT YOUNG MAN WITH PROFESSOR MCGEEBY SAID HE AND DUNCE! MAYBE HE'S THE ONE THAT WARNED THE SHINING KNIGHT!
OR MAYBE HE'S THE SHINING KNIGHT HIMSELF! I'M GOING TO FIND SOME MORE CLUES TO HELP ME THEN I'LL GO HOME AND SEE! I'LL PAY HIM BACK FOR STOPPING MY SCHEME - AND MAYBE GET WHAT THE SKULL WANTS AFTER ALL!


NEXT DAY... AS NIGHT IS FALLING...
YOU SUCCEEDED IN RECOVERING EVERYTHING, JUSTIN! IF NOT FOR YOU, THE MUSEUM WOULD HAVE SUFFERED A TERRIBLE LOSS!
IT'S JUST PART OF THE DEBT I OWE YOU, PROFESSOR MORESBY.
SUDDENLY...
THERE THEY ARE, BOYS! THEY'RE THE ONES I HIRED YOU TO GET!
TAKE IT EASY. WE ALWAYS DO OUR JOB RIGHT!
AHHHH
LEAVE THE OLD GUY. THE YOUNG FELLOW IS THE ONE I WANT!
WITH THE SPEED OF A WELL-OILED MACHINE, THE HIRED KIDNAPPERS CARRY OUT THEIR EVIL DEEDS AND JUSTIN IS PLACED IN A WAITING AUTOMOBILE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SNATCH THIS GUY FOR, BOSS? HE DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'S GOT DOUGH!
I THINK HE'S GOT SOMETHING ELSE I WANT... AND I'M GOING TO GET IT!
LATER...
WHERE AM ... WHAT HAPPENED? (MUSTN'T LET HIM KNOW I RECOGNIZE HIM!)
YOU'RE THE SHINING KNIGHT! ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS CONFESS AND I'LL LET YOU GO! I HOPE HE'S FOOL ENOUGH TO BELIEVE ME!
I CAN'T LIE AND DENY I'M THE SHINING KNIGHT, BUT I DON'T WANT TO LET HIM KNOW HE'S GUESSED RIGHT. EITHER! ALL I CAN DO IS KEEP QUIET!
YOU WON'T GET NO PLACE BY NOT TALKIN'!
BUT JUSTIN OBSTINATELY REFUSES TO ANSWER THE CAPTAIN'S QUESTION.
YOU BETTER TALK... OR ELSE!
ALL I'LL SAY IS THAT YOU'D BETTER LET ME GO OR THE POLICE WILL DO THE TALKING FOR ME!

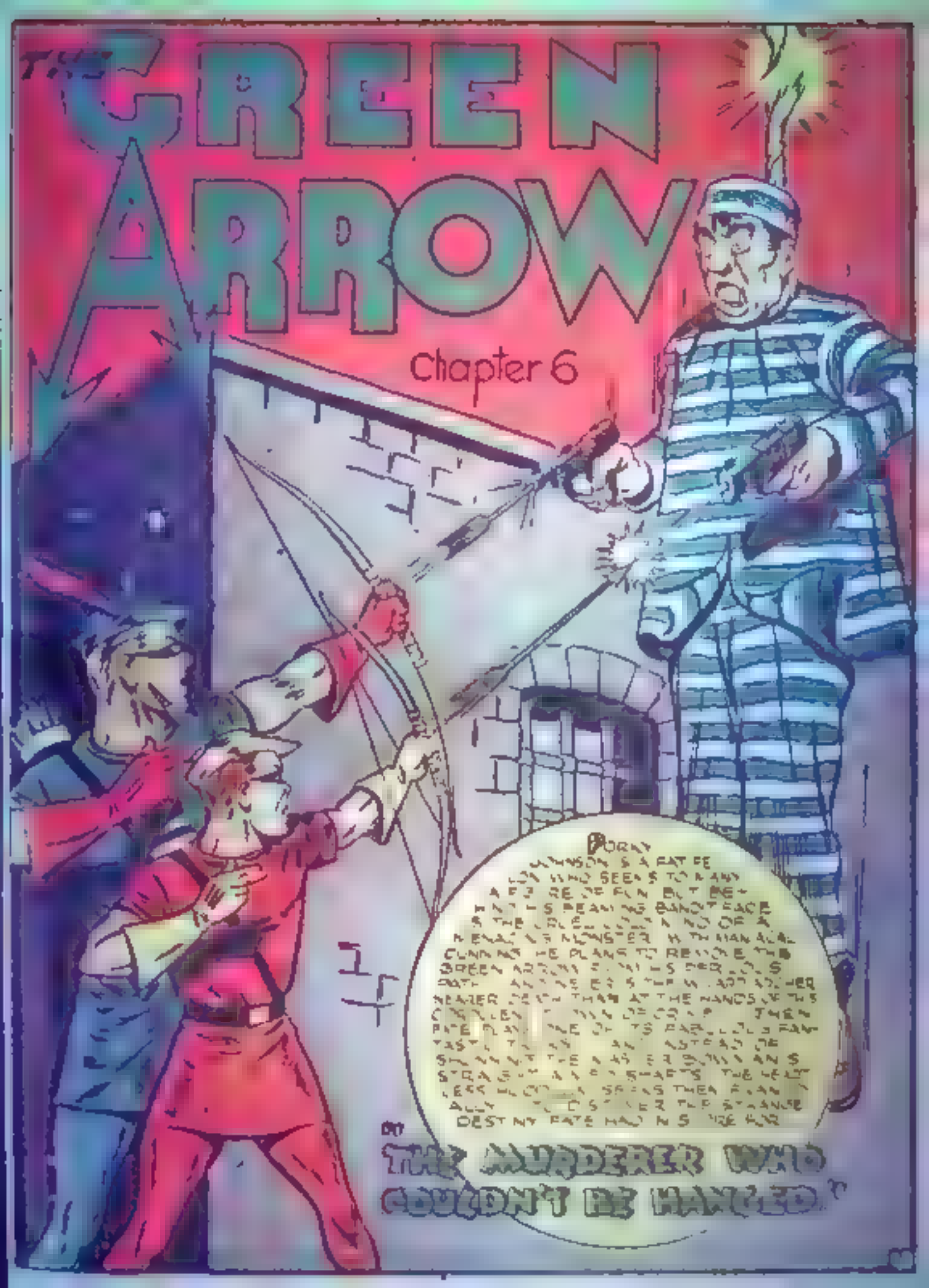

ENRAGED BY HIS CAPTIVES SLEIGHT THE HOMICIDAL HOODLUM DEVISES A DEADLY SCHEME OF REVENGE!
MAYBE A LITTLE DUCK'N WILL HELP YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
MY MIND'S ALREADY MADE UP! I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU!
THE TOUCH OF A FINGER ON A SWITCH SETS THE GIANT WHEEL IN MOTION
SO LONG, WISE GUY! I'LL BE BACK IN HALF AN HOUR TO SEE IF YOU WANT TO TELL ME ANYTHING!
IN HALF AN HOUR I MAY BE DEAD!
EVERY TIME THAT WHEEL DUCKS ME, I DROWN JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE! I'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE! I WISH I HAD A KNIFE!
MEANWHILE... PROFESSOR MORESBY BEGINS CONSCIOUSNESS TO DISCOVER THAT JUSTIN IS GONE!
YOU'RE WEAK, PROFESSOR, YOU OUGHT TO REST!
I'M ALL RIGHT! JUSTIN MUST NEED HELP!
THE MAN OF LEARNING RESOLVES TO BECOME A MAN OF ACTION!
AN VICTORY WILL ENSURE A PLEASANT SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR MASTER! BUT I FEAR GREATLY THAT HE IS IN DANGER!
THE GUARD SAID THE KIDNAPPERS WENT IN THIS DIRECTION. PERHAPS I MAY SUCCEED IN TRAILING THEM!
AS PROFESSOR MORESBY BOARS INSTEADILY THROUGH THE SWAMP, DEATH DRAWS NEAR JUSTIN!
THIS WHEEL SEEMS LOOSE - THEY MUST HAVE BEEN REPAIRING IT! I CAN THROW MY WEIGHT TO ONE SIDE IT WILL UNBALANCE IT COMPLETELY!
AH! I SUCCEED IN PUTTING A STRAIN ON THE WHEEL! IT'S VIBRATING!

THE VIOLENT VIBRATIONS SHAKE THE LOOSE WHEEL FROM ITS AXLE - AND IT PLUNGES DOWN TOWARD THE WATERY DEPTH BELOW!
NOW IF ONLY THE WHEEL LANDS RIGHT SIDE UP.
ITS FALL BROKEN BY THE WATER THE WHEEL ROLLS ALONG THE RIVER BOTTOM AND COMES TO REST ON ONE OF THE BANKS!
THE VIBRATION AND THE FALL LOOSENED THESE ROPES! NOW I CAN SLIP MY HAND FREE!
WHILE DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS SWOOP A LOYAL FRIEND AND A FAITHFUL STEED!
PROFESSOR MORESBY! HOW DID YOU GET HERE!
VICTORY'S KEEN EYES SIGHTED HIS MASTER FROM THOUSANDS OF FEET UP! JUSTIN - THINK YOU WILL NEED YOUR SWORD AND ARMOR!
MOMENTS LATER...
YOU WILL USE YOUR WEAPONS BETTER THAN I COULD, JUSTIN!
I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH CERTAIN VILE WRETCHES! HO, THERE, VICTORY WE MUST BE OFF!!
WHILE IN THE POWER STATION, A VIOLENT QUARREL IS BREWING!
I SAID WOULD LET YOU HIDE HERE FOR A SHORT TIME, NOT USE THIS PLACE TO COMMIT YOUR CRIMES!
TAKE ORDERS FROM NOBODY BUT THE SKULL! TEACH HIM A LESSON, BOYS!
AHHHH
I SOON OUT TO SEE IF THAT GUY WAS TALKING YET. HE WON'T LET YOU FELLOWS WORK ON HIM! I THINK HE'S REALLY THE SHINING KNIGHT IN DISGUISE - FOR HIS ARMOR
SUDDENLY,
HOLA KNAVE! I HEAR THOU HERT SEEN NO ME!
THIS IS THE REAL KNIGHT! THEN THE YOUNG FELLOW OUTSIDE CAN'T BE HIM
15


THE FLAT OF MY SWORD WILL TEACH THEE TO KEEP A LEVEL HEAD
MERCY!!
MY BLADE WILL MAKE THY HEAD SPIN LIKE A WHEEL!
M GOIN N CRCLES! M DIZZY!
THESE HEAVY BLUDGE WILL LETA LITTLE DAYLIGHT INTO H M!
FOOL BE CHARLS, KNOW YE NOT THAT BULLETS CAN NOT PIERCE MERLIN'S ARMOR!
MY SWORD WILL LET DAYLIGHT INTO THESE COWARDS HEAD AS
KEEP THEM FROM YE GIVE UP!
THE TERRIFIED LEADER OF THE GANGSTER CREW SEEKS SAFETY & FLIGHT ONCE MORE
IF HE CAPTURES ME AND HAS ME SENT BACK IT MEANS ELECTROCUTION!
YIELD, THEE WRETCHED MISCREANT THIS TIME CANST THOU NOT ESCAPE!
MR & MRS [illegible] MILDRED'S MASTER BLUNTS ATTACK A TRUDGING PUBLIC SERVANT!
THE CULPRIT HAS PASSED THROUGH HIS BODY
AHHH...
LATER, AFTER THE POLICE HAVE BEEN SUMMONED
YOU ROUNDED UP THE WHOLE GANG AGENT! WE OWE YOU A LOT!
ACT BUT TO SERVE JUSTICE SIR OFFICER! RENCH SEES THAT THE MURDERERS BROTHER IS INNOCENT AS FOR SIR DEER HE HAS MET THE DEATH TO WHICH HE WAS CONDEMNED ELECTROCUTION!

THE GREEN ARROW

Chapter 6



BORN
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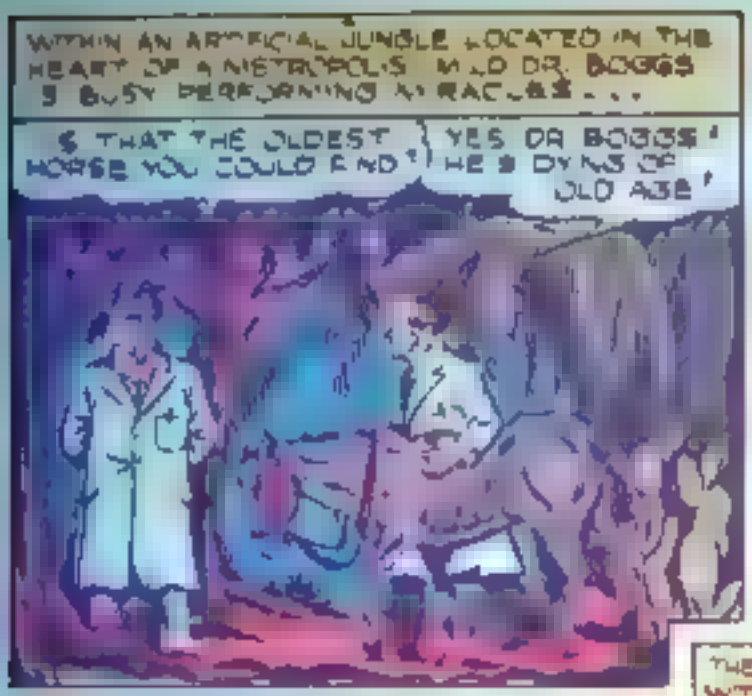
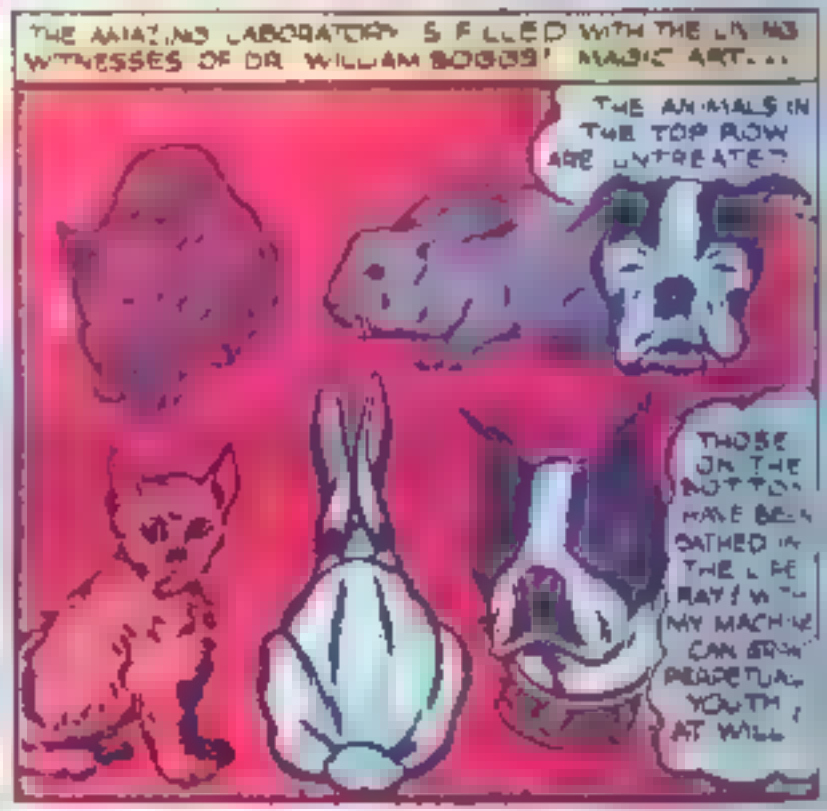
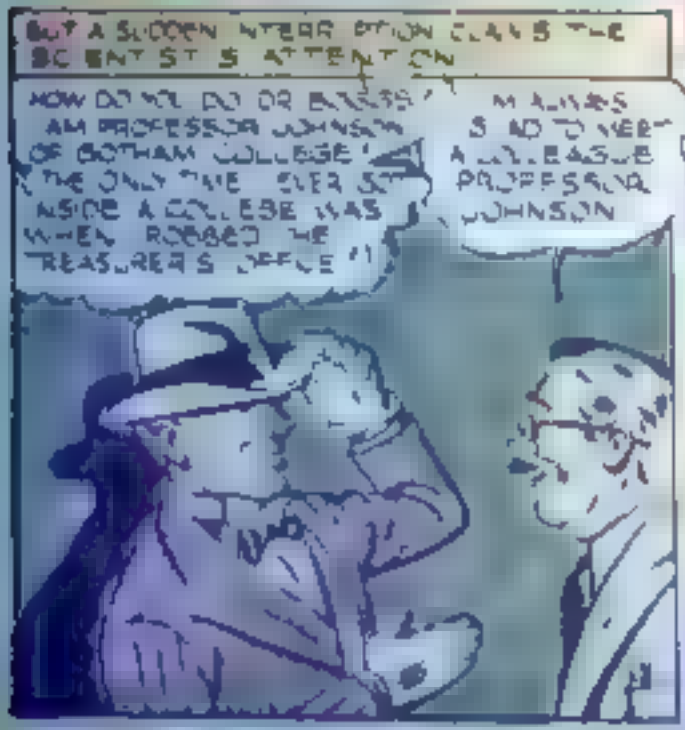

WITHIN AN ARTIFICIAL JUNGLE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF A METROPOLIS MAD DR. BOGGS IS BUSY PERFORMING MIRACLES...
IS THAT THE OLDEST HORSE YOU COULD FIND?
YES DR BOGGS! HE'S DYING OF OLD AGE!

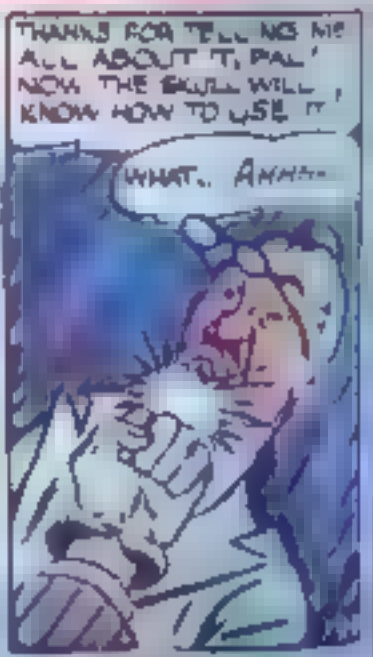
WE'LL SEE WHAT MY VIOLET LIGHT RAY WILL DO FOR HIM!
I DON'T KNOW DR BOGGS THIS IS THE BIGGEST ANIMAL WE'VE EVER TRIED IT ON!

AS THE TWO MEN WAIT TENSELY AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE! ANCIENT EYES GROW BRIGHT HOLLOWED FLESH BEGINS TO FILL OUT BENT LEGS STRAIGHTEN.
IT WORKS HE'S GOING AGAIN!
IT HAS ALWAYS WORKED BEFORE IT'S A MIRACLE!


THE AMAZING LABORATORY IS FILLED WITH THE LIVING WITNESSES OF DR. WILLIAM BOGGS' MAGIC ART...
THE ANIMALS IN THE TOP ROW ARE UNTREATED
THOSE ON THE BOTTOM HAVE BEEN BATHED IN THE LIFE RAY! WITH MY MACHINE CAN GIVE PERPETUAL YOUTH AT WILL


BUT A SUDDEN INTERRUPTION CLAIMS THE SCIENTIST'S ATTENTION
HOW DO YOU DO DR BOGGS! I AM PROFESSOR JOHNSON OF GOTHAM COLLEGE! THE ONLY TIME EVER SOMEONE INSIDE A COLLEGE WAS WHEN ROBBED THE TREASURER'S OFFICE!!
I ALWAYS SAID TO MEET A COLLEAGUE PROFESSOR JOHNSON

I'VE HEARD A GREAT DEAL OF YOUR WONDERFUL INVENTION DR BOGGS! I'M INTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW IT WORKS!
IT'S VERY SIMPLE! SIMPLY PRESS THIS BUTTON...


THANKS FOR TELLING ME ALL ABOUT IT, PAL! NOW THE SKULL WILL KNOW HOW TO USE IT!
WHAT.. AHHH-

THAT WAS A LOT EASIER THAN HOLDING UP A BANK! NOW, IF THE GREEN ARROW DON'T GET ON MY TRAIL, I'LL BE SAFE!
I'LL LET THE POST OFFICE TAKE CARE OF DELIVERING THIS MACHINE TO THE SKULL! BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE THE GREEN ARROW DON'T COME AFTER ME
PARCEL POST
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM FIRST!
A FEW DAYS LATER AS THE GREEN ARROW CONTINUES HIS SCHEDULED LECTURE TOUR.
GENTLEMEN IN THE PAST WEEK I'VE SPOKEN TO MANY POLICE AGENCIES ON FIGHTING CRIME! TODAY I WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT WAYS OF HANDLING THE EXCEPTIONAL CRIMINAL...
WHILE IN THE AUDIENCE..
THE NOTORIOUS PORKY JOHNSON IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE CRIMINAL WHO COMBINES DARING WITH SHREWD, TRICKY METHODS
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW RIGHT YOU ARE GREEN ARROW!
AS THE GREEN ARROW'S LECTURE COMES TO AN END, AMID A HURRICANE OF APPLAUSE...
THAT'S THE LAST SPEECH YOU'LL EVER MAKE! NOW THIS CAT OF MINE IS GONNA DO A LITTLE TALKIN'!
A KEEN EYE CATCHES A GLINT OF GUNMETAL ON GUN BARREL..
A BOWSTRING TWANGS AND A SWIFT ARROW QUIVERS THROUGH THE AIR!
THE GREEN ARROW WOULD HAVE BEEN A GONER IF THAT K.O. HADN'T BUTTED IN!
PORKY MUST BE CRAZY! SURROUNDED BY ALL THESE POLICEMEN HE KNOWS HE CAN'T ESCAPE!

BUT THE CLEVER CRIMINAL HAS MADE CUNNING PREPARATIONS AS THE POLICE ATTEMPT TO SEIZE HIM
THIS IS GOING TO BE SOME GETAWAY! A COUPLE OF HUNDRED COPS AROUND ME. AND THEY CAN'T LAY A FINGER ON ME!
HE'S GOT A BLACK WIRE AROUND HIS WAIST! HE'S BEING PULLED UP BY OTHER CROOKS ON THE ROOF
RISING SWIFTLY THE WOULD BE MURDERER DISAPPEARS THROUGH AN OPEN MANHOLE ABOVE
SURROUND THE BUILDING!
WE'LL GO UP AFTER HIM! HE CAN'T ESCAPE US FOR LONG!
ON THE ROOFTOP
THEY THOUGHT THEY'D CATCH ME AT TIMES WE HANGED! BUT I THOUGHT IT'S WELL BE SAFE IN THIS ALLEY ROOF!
YEAH, THEN COPS WILL BE RUNNIN' AROUND IN CIRCLES!
SECONDS LATER
IT'S A CLEAN GETAWAY!
HE MADE FOOLS OF US AND OF THE GREEN ARROW TOO!
BUT THE GREEN ARROW AND SPEEDY WASTE NO PRECIOUS MOMENTS IN IDLE REGRET HASTENING TO THE WAITING ARROWPLANE..
AUTOGIROS CAN'T FLY FAST! IN THE ARROWPLANE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP PORKY JOHNSON IN SIGHT!
HE WON'T EVEN KNOW WE'RE FOLLOWING HIM!
HE'S HEADING SOUTH! I WONDER IF HE HAS A HIDEOUT NEAR HERE?
IT CAN'T BE FAR AWAY! THAT SMALL BUD HASN'T GOT MUCH OF A CRUISING RANGE!
THESE TREES SHUT OUT THE LIGHT! WE'RE LIABLE TO LOSE HIM!
WE'LL FIND HIM AGAIN, GREEN ARROW! AN AUTOGIRO ISN'T AN EASY THING TO HIDE

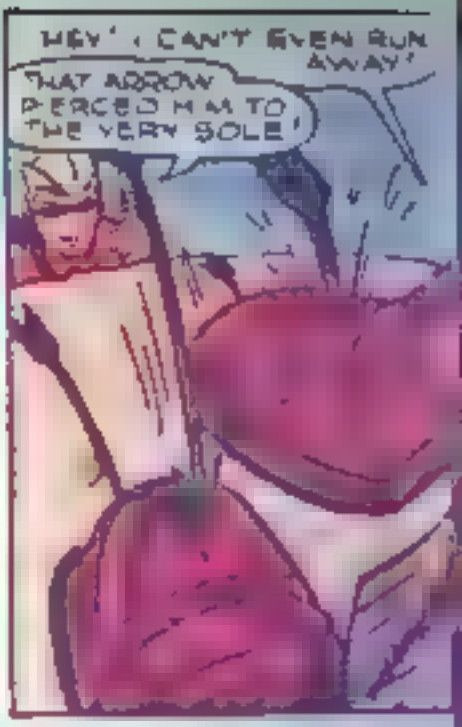
AS THE RACING ARROWPLANE COMES OUT FROM BENEATH THE CANOPY OF TREES...
THE ALTOGIRL ISN'T IN SIGHT! IT MUST HAVE LANDED
THAT PEAK WOULD MAKE A SWELL HIDE-OUT FOR A CROOK GREEN ARROW! THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO IT WOULD BE BY FLYING!
THEN THAT'S THE WAY I'LL GET THERE! ALL SET FOR THE CATAPULT, SPEEDY!
ALLEYOOP!
FLASHING THROUGH THE AIR WITH THE SPEED OF A SHOOTING STAR THE WIZARD ARCHER STREAKS TOWARD THE TOP OF THE LONE PEAK
WON'T PORKY BE SURPRISED WHEN I DROP IN!
YEAH! I FOOLED THE GREEN ARROW THAT TIME HEY, WHERE...?
NICE HIDEOUT YOU'VE GOT HERE, PORKY! I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A LOOK AT IT!
KILL HIM! MURDER HIM! THROW HIM OFF THE CLIFF!
PORKY YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A HAM!
OW! I BROKE MY HAND!
ALL YOU'VE GOT IS A CASE OF BRUISED PIG KNUCKLES!
AHHHH.
I THINK THAT PUNCH BROUGHT HOME THE BACON PORKY!
POW!

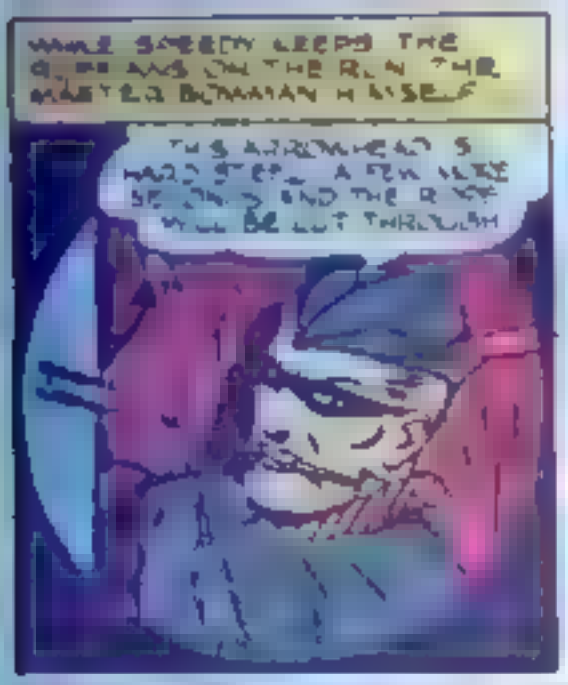
BUT NOW ARCHERING FROM THE SURPRISE THE CORDULEN CRIMINALS HENCHMEN ENTER THE FRAY
HERE'S WHERE WE SCORE A COUPLA BULL'S EYES!
YEAH THESE LEAD SLUGS OUGHT TO TEAR THE GREEN ARROW APART
BUT TWO SLENDER SHAFTS SING THROUGH THE AIR
HERE'S WHERE A COUPLE OF ARROWS TEAR THOSE LEAD SLUGS OF YOURS APART!
WHILE THE WIZARD ARCHERS BACK STAGE PORKY GRASPS A NUMBEROUS WEAPON
I'LL BREAK THE GREEN ARROW IN TWO WITH THIS SMASH
BUT THE MASTER BOWMAN TURNS OUT TO BE
HEY
HEARD YOU GRUNTING PORKY
KNOCK ON WOOD IT'S BAD LUCK FOR YOU!
TOO MANY CROOKS ARE PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON THE GREEN ARROW
YOU'RE TO CROOKED SHOOT AN ARROW STRAIGHT PORKY

ALL I NEED IS PRACTICE, GREEN ARROW! AND YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME GET IT!
THEY LEFT MY HEAD FREE BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO SEE ME TRY TO DUCK THE ARROWS. BUT ONE STRIKES CLOSE ENOUGH AND I HAVE A FEW SECONDS
NOT BAD, RORAY BUT YOU DON'T HOLD THE BOW RIGHT. HOLD IT CLOSER TO YOUR FACE!
OKAY, ARROW MAN. TAKE YOUR ADVICE!
BUT AS THE FAT FELON RELEASES THE NEXT ARROW
OW! THAT STRING SNAPPED BACK AND HIT ME IN THE FACE!
THE GREEN ARROW KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN. THAT'S WHY HE TOLD YOU TO HOLD YOUR FACE CLOSER
ATTABOY, BLISS! NOW WASTE ONE MORE ARROW ON THE TREE!
...ST FOR A GREEN ARROW ...RSHIT!
MEANWHILE, A WORRIED LAD AWAITS THE RETURN OF THE ALE ARCHER
THE GREEN ARROW OUGHT TO BE BACK BY NOW. SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED. I'D BETTER DO A LITTLE NIGHT SCOUTING!
GREEN ARROW'S ...OUT!
SEEMS LIKE I'M GETTING HERE JUST IN TIME!
...ES A TREE ON THAT ... I'LL ANCHOR AN AR... LINE IN IT AND USE THE ... TO CLIMB UP BY!
AS THE BLOATED BANDIT AT A RANGE SO SHORT HE CANNOT MISS RAISES THE UNARMED ARCHER'S BOW -
TOO BAD THAT A DESPERATE ANTI-HERO TO DEATH YOU, GREEN ARROW!
THAT'S AIN LIKE, CHUM!

SPEEDY! GOOD BOY!
HE WANTED ME HERE GREEN ARROW AND COULDN'T STAY AWAY!
YOU PICKED A FINE TIME TO GET HERE!

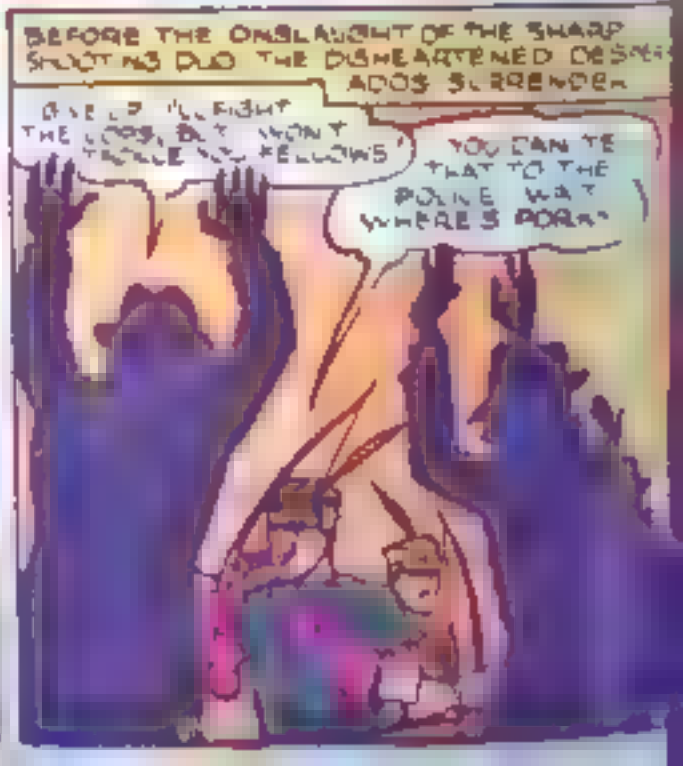
THE KID SHOOTS EVEN BETTER THAN GREEN ARROW
OH NO, GREEN ARROW WOULD HAVE PINNED YOU TO THAT TREE BY YOUR HAIR!


HEY! I CAN'T EVEN RUN AWAY!
THAT ARROW PERCED HIM TO THE VERY SOLE!

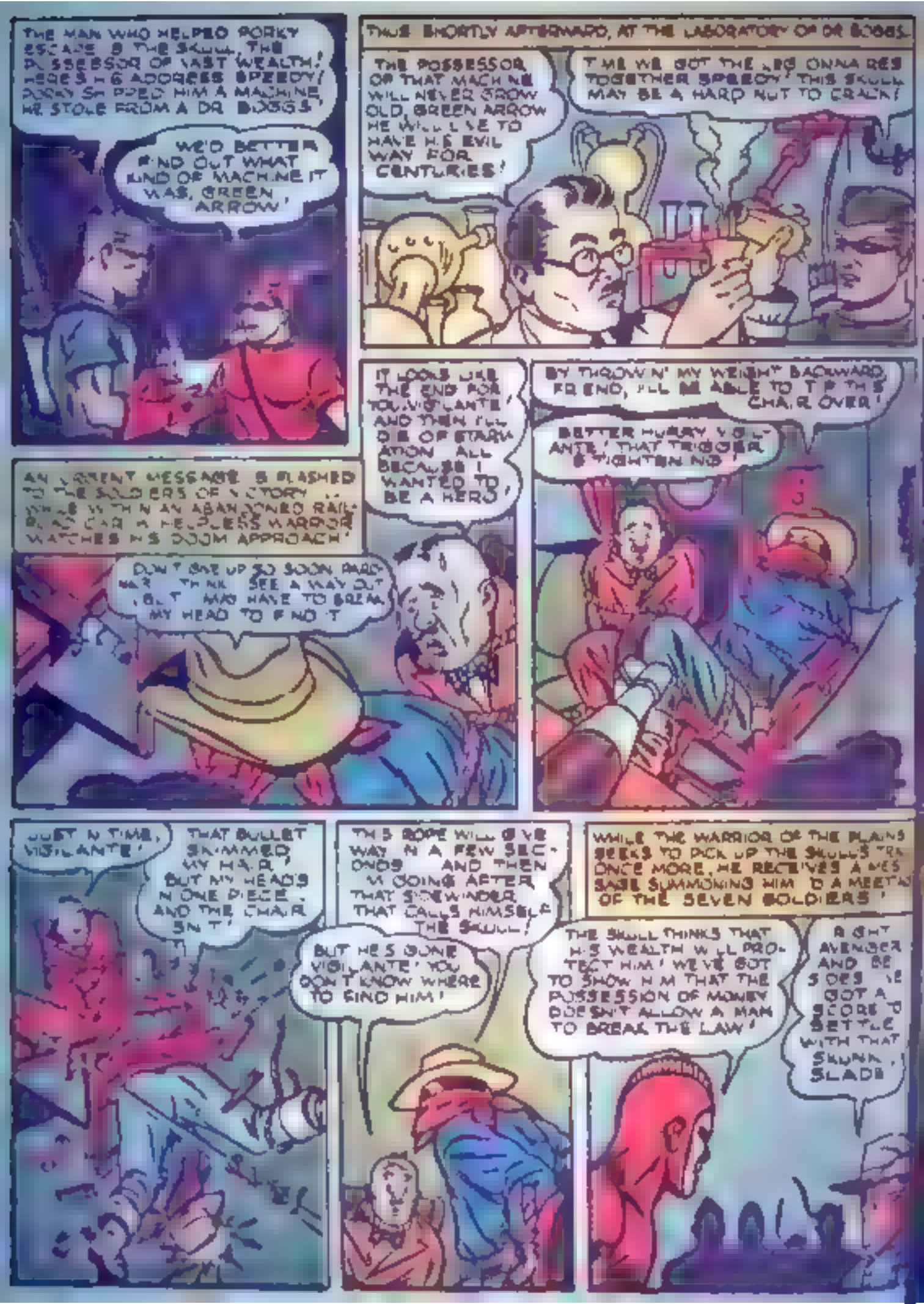

WHILE SPEEDY KEEPS THE OUTLAWS ON THE RUN THE MASTER BOWMAN HIMSELF
THIS ARROWHEAD'S HAD ITS A FEW MORE SECONDS AND THE ROPE WILL BE CUT THROUGH

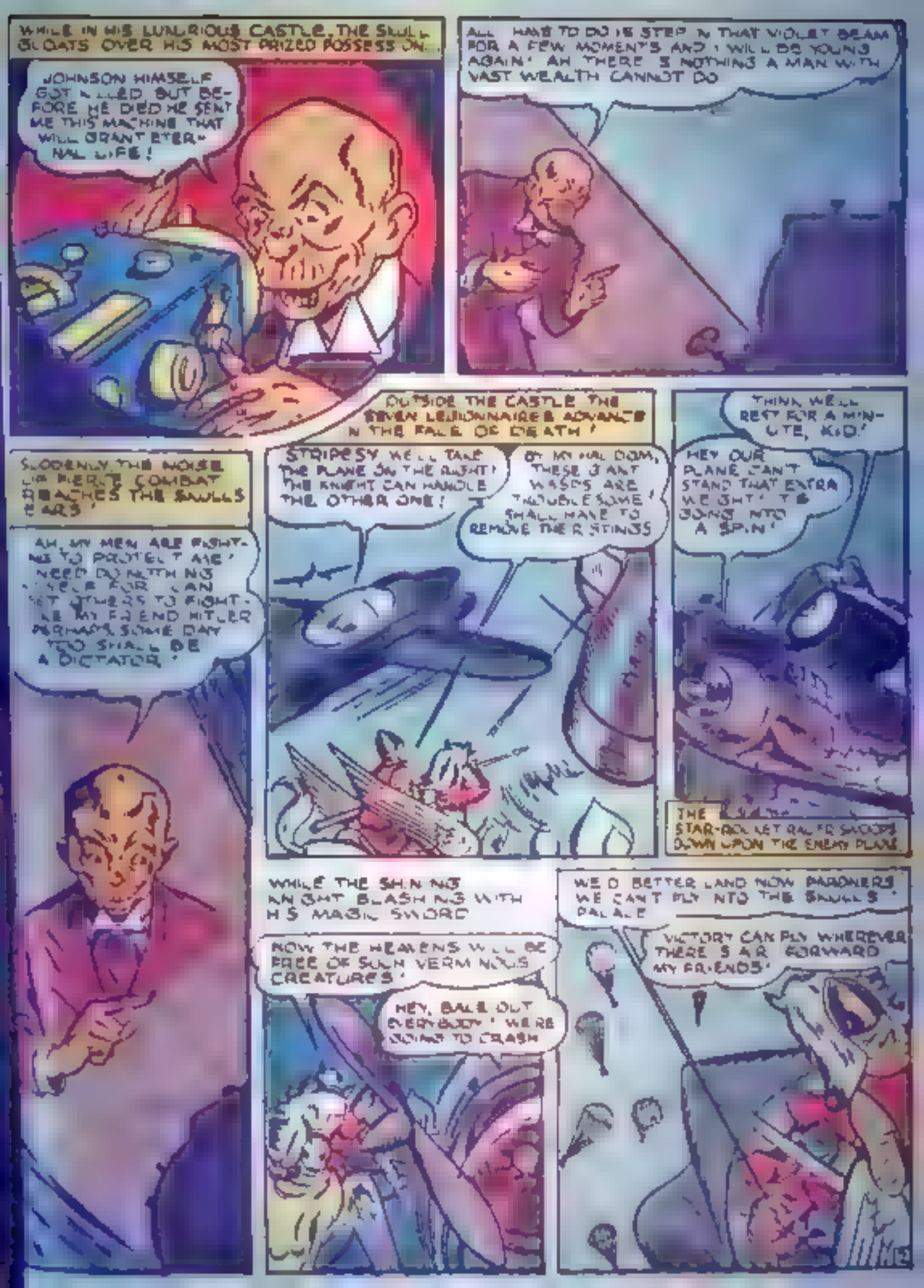
GUESS BIT OFF MORE THAN COULD CHEW THIS TIME
YOU DO A GOOD JOB SPEEDY! HERE'S WHERE WE GO TO TOWN TOGETHER

NOW YOU KNOW HOW JAMES TIN-HS FEEL!

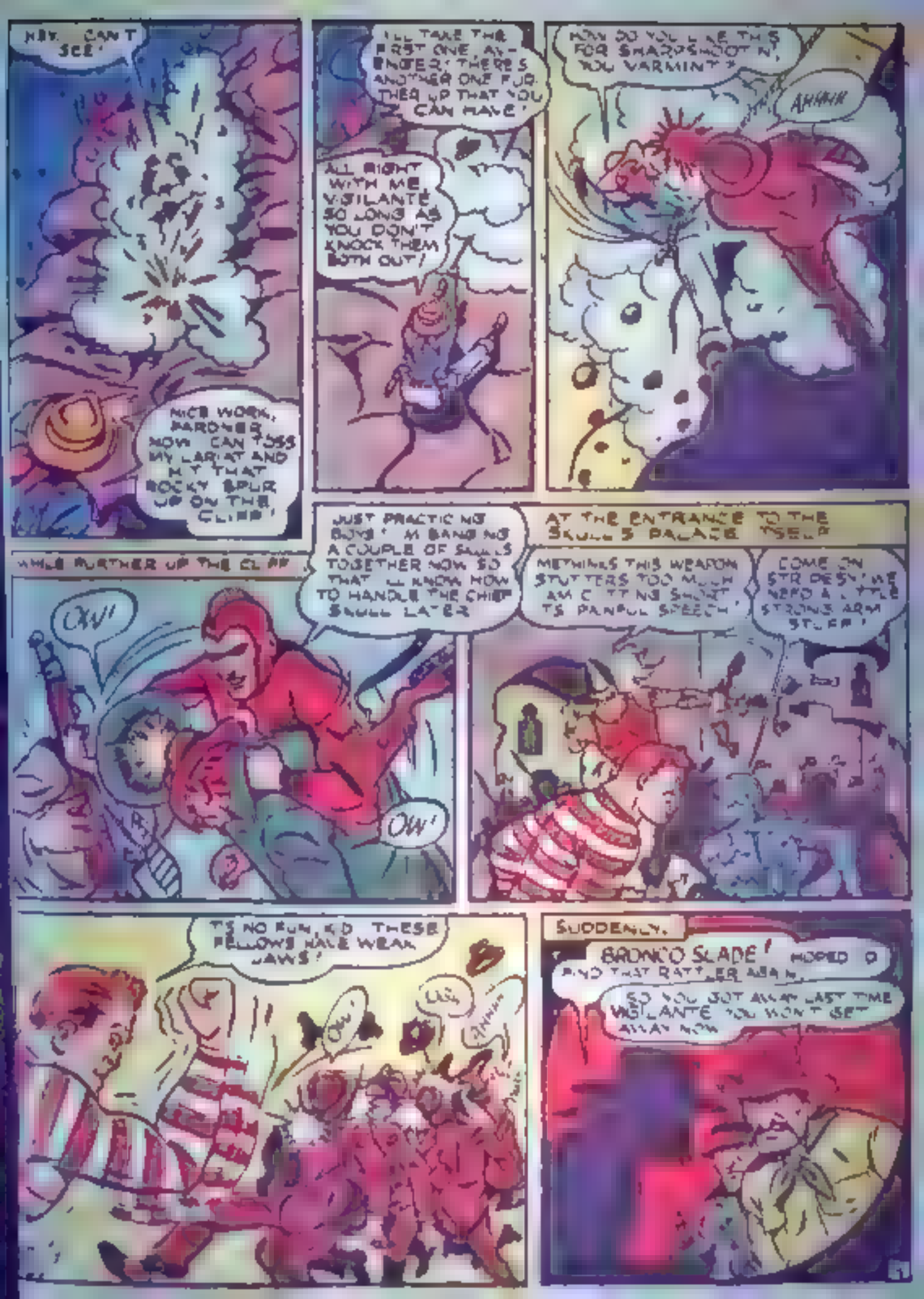

BEFORE THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE SHARP SHOOTING DUO THE DISHEARTENED DESPERADOS SURRENDER
GIVE UP! I'LL FIGHT THE LOCUSTS, BUT WON'T TROUBLE YOU FELLOWS!
YOU CAN TE THAT TO THE POLE WAT WHERE'S POA!

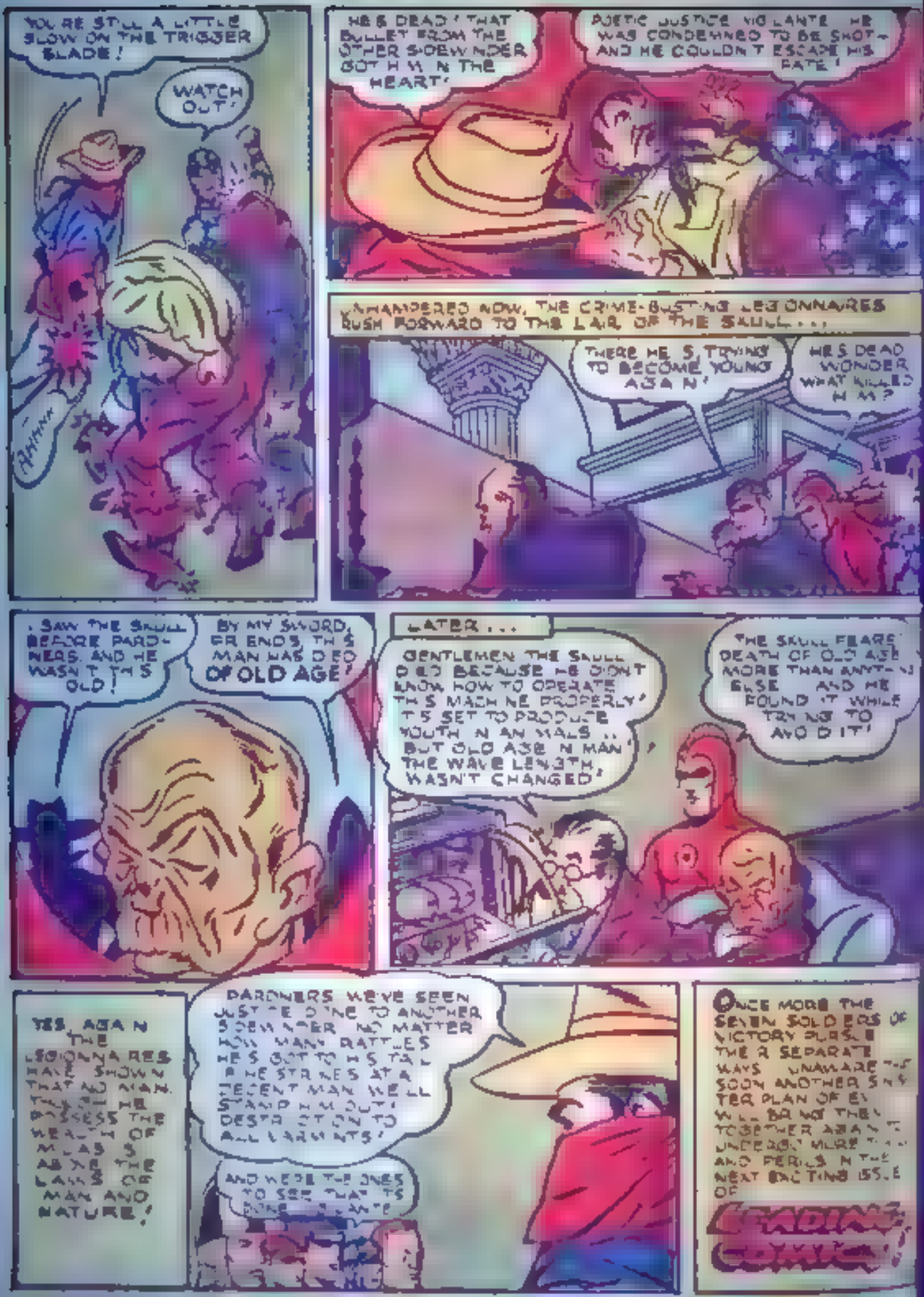
THE PAUNCHY LEADER IS MAKING A DESPERATE EFFORT TO ESCAPE!
I CAN'T LET GREEN ARROW CAPTURE ME! I'D BE SENT BACK TO THE PEN TO HANG!
AS HE HASTENS HIS PERILOUS DESCENT HIS HANDS SLIP ON THE SMOOTH SURFACE OF A ROCK...
HELP! SOMEBODY! GREEN ARROW!
SO THERE'S PORKY! EVEN THOUGH HE'S A MURDERER, SPEEDY WILL DO MY BEST TO SAVE HIM!
THE FRIGHTENED FELON CLUTCHES AT A SMALL SHRUB AND TEMPORARILY HALTS HIS FALL...
HELP!
HOLD ON, PORKY! I'M SHOOTING AN ARROW LINE YOUR WAY!
I HOPE THIS ARROW LINE REACHES FAR ENOUGH! HIS BOW HAS LOST SOME OF ITS ELASTICITY SINCE PORKY HANDCUFFED IT!
HURRY UP, GREEN ARROW! I CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH LONGER!
THE ARROW LINE STREAMS DOWNWARD... AND FALLS SHORT! AND WITH A FINAL DESPAIRING SHRIEK, THE BARBED THUD PLUNGES DOWNWARD TO HIS DOOM!
SHORT BY A FEW INCHES
PORKY WAS A QUEER KETCH OF FATE'S EVENTS... HE WAS "CONDEMNED TO DIE AT THE END OF A ROPE"
AND HE DIED BECAUSE A ROPE WASN'T LONG ENOUGH!
NOW IT'S UP TO US... O'ER THE MAN WHO'LL BE THE BREAKING... WE'LL SEARCH THE HIDEOUT AND PERHAPS WE'LL FIND A CLUE


THE MAN WHO HELPED PORKY ESCAPE IS THE SKULL, THE POSSESSOR OF VAST WEALTH! HERE'S HIS ADDRESS SPEEDY! PORKY SHIPPED HIM A MACHINE HE STOLE FROM A DR BOGGS!
WE'D BETTER FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF MACHINE IT WAS, GREEN ARROW!
THUS SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AT THE LABORATORY OF DR BOGGS...
THE POSSESSOR OF THAT MACHINE WILL NEVER GROW OLD, GREEN ARROW HE WILL LIVE TO HAVE HIS EVIL WAY FOR CENTURIES!
THEN WE GOT THE LEAD OUTTA OUR TOOTHER SPEEDY! THIS SKULL MAY BE A HARD NUT TO CRACK!
AN URGENT MESSAGE IS FLASHED TO THE SOLDIERS OF VICTORY... WHILE WITHIN AN ABANDONED RAILROAD CAR A HELPLESS WARRIOR WATCHES HIS DOOM APPROACH!
DON'T GIVE UP SO SOON PARDNER! THINK! SEE A WAY OUT, BUT I MAY HAVE TO BREAK MY HEAD TO FIND IT
IT LOOKS LIKE THE END FOR YOU, VIGILANTE! AND THEN I'LL DIE OF STARVATION ALL BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE A HERO!
BY THROWIN' MY WEIGHT BACKWARD, FRIEND, I'LL BE ABLE TO TIP THIS CHAIR OVER!
BETTER HURRY VIGILANTE! THAT TRIGGER'S TIGHTENING!
JUST IN TIME, VIGILANTE!
THAT BULLET SKIMMED MY HAIR, BUT MY HEAD'S IN ONE PIECE, AND THE CHAIR ISN'T!
THIS ROPE WILL GIVE WAY IN A FEW SECONDS AND THEN I'M GOING AFTER THAT SIDEWINDER THAT CALLS HIMSELF THE SKULL!
BUT HE'S GONE VIGILANTE! YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM!
WHILE THE WARRIOR OF THE PLAINS SEEKS TO PICK UP THE SKULL'S TRAIL ONCE MORE, HE RECEIVES A MESSAGE SUMMONING HIM TO A MEETING OF THE SEVEN SOLDIERS!
THE SKULL THINKS THAT HIS WEALTH WILL PROTECT HIM! WE'VE GOT TO SHOW HIM THAT THE POSSESSION OF MONEY DOESN'T ALLOW A MAN TO BREAK THE LAW!
RIGHT AVENGER AND BESIDES HE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THAT SKUNK, SLADE!


WHILE IN HIS LUXURIOUS CASTLE, THE SKULL GLOATS OVER HIS MOST PRIZED POSSESSION...
JOHNSON HIMSELF GOT KILLED BUT BEFORE HE DIED HE SENT ME THIS MACHINE THAT WILL GRANT ETERNAL LIFE!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS STEP IN THAT VIOLET BEAM FOR A FEW MOMENTS AND I WILL BE YOUNG AGAIN! AH THERE IS NOTHING A MAN WITH VAST WEALTH CANNOT DO
OUTSIDE THE CASTLE THE SEVEN LEGIONNAIRES ADVANCE IN THE FACE OF DEATH!
THINK WE'LL REST FOR A MINUTE, KID!
HEY OUR PLANE CAN'T STAND THAT EXTRA WEIGHT! IT'S GOING INTO A SPIN!
STRIPESY WE'LL TAKE THE PLANE ON THE RIGHT! THE KNIGHT CAN HANDLE THE OTHER ONE!
BY MY VAL DOM, THESE GIANT WASPS ARE TROUBLESOME! I SHALL HAVE TO REMOVE THEIR STINGS
SUDDENLY THE NOISE OF FIERCE COMBAT BREACHES THE SKULL'S EARS!
AH, MY MEN ARE FIGHTING TO PROTECT ME! I NEED DO NOTHING MYSELF FOR I CAN GET OTHERS TO FIGHT. LIKE MY FRIEND HITLER PERHAPS SOME DAY I TOO SHALL BE A DICTATOR!
THE [illegible] STAR-ROCKET RAIDER SWOOPS DOWN UPON THE ENEMY PLANE
WHILE THE SHINING KNIGHT SLASHING WITH HIS MAGIC SWORD
NOW THE HEAVENS WILL BE FREE OF SUCH VERMINOUS CREATURES!
HEY, BAIL OUT EVERYBODY! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH
WE'D BETTER LAND NOW PARDNERS! WE CAN'T FLY INTO THE SKULL'S PALACE
VICTORY CAN FLY WHEREVER THERE'S AIR FORWARD MY FRIENDS!

AS THE LEGIONNAIRES LAND AN IRON-CLAD, FIRE SPITTING MONSTER COMES INTO VIEW
OH OH WE DON'T COUNT ON THIS
THAT TANA S TOO TOUGH FOR EVEN YOUR FISTS, AVENGER!
THIS IS NOT THE FIRST FIRE-BREATHING DRAGON I HAVE SLAIN, MERLINS SWORD IS DEATH TO ALL EVIL
WE'D BETTER DUCK, FEELS LIKE WE GOT HIT BY AN ANT-TANA SHELL
BUT AHEAD OF THE SIX ANTI-ARMOR FIGHTERS CHARTER LOOSE SIMULTANEOUSLY
LOOK LIKE A JOB FOR ME AND SPEEDY THIS TIME
WE'LL EACH TAKE A GLEN GREEN ARMOR
TWO SLENDER SHAFTS SPEED THROUGH THE AIR STRAIGHT FOR THEIR UNSUSPECTING TARGETS
THE ARROW WON'T LET THE CARTRIDGE SEAT HOME THE GUN'S JAMMED!
WE CAN FIX THAT PULL THE ARROW OUT!
HEY WHAT
GET AWAY FROM THAT CANNON BE A LOT OF INNOCENTS DEAD
AS THE SEVEN SILVER EGGS OF VICTORY NEAR THE SKULL CASTLE HAPPEN SPIRITS TAKE UP THE BATTLE
THE MINUTE THOSE BIRDS SMELL ME - HE LIES I'LL BLAST THEM OFF THEY CAN'T GET AT ME HERE!
THIS LOOK LIKE YOUR CHANCE, MISTER CRIMSON!
YOU'RE RIGHT WING! HERE GOES ONE OF MY CRIMSON CAPSULES!


HEY, CAN'T SEE!
NICE WORK, PARDNER NOW CAN TOSS MY LARIAT AND HIT THAT ROCKY SPUR UP ON THE CLIFF!
I'LL TAKE THE FIRST ONE, AV-ENGER; THERE'S ANOTHER ONE FUR-THER UP THAT YOU CAN HAVE!
ALL RIGHT WITH ME, VIGILANTE SO LONG AS YOU DON'T KNOCK THEM BOTH OUT!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS FOR SHARPSHOOTIN', YOU VARMINT?
AHHHH
WHILE FURTHER UP THE CLIFF
JUST PRACTICING BOYS! MIGHT AS A COUPLE OF SKULLS TOGETHER NOW SO THAT I'LL KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE CHIEF SKULL LATER
OW!
OW!
AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE SKULL'S PALACE "SELF"
MEYHINKS THIS WEAPON STUTTERS TOO MUCH AM CUTTING SHORT ITS PAINFUL SPEECH!
COME ON STRONGBEAM NEED A LITTLE STRONG ARM STUFF!
IT'S NO FUN, I'D THESE FELLOWS HAVE WEAK JAWS!
OW!
UGH
OHHH
SUDDENLY,
BRONCO SLADE! HOPED I'D FIND THAT RATTLER AGAIN.
SO YOU JOT AWAY LAST TIME VIGILANTE YOU WON'T GET AWAY NOW


YOU'RE STILL A LITTLE SLOW ON THE TRIGGER BLADE!
WATCH OUT!
AHHHH
HE'S DEAD! THAT BULLET FROM THE OTHER SIDEWINDER GOT HIM IN THE HEART!
POETIC JUSTICE VIGILANTE HE WAS CONDEMNED TO BE SHOT— AND HE COULDN'T ESCAPE HIS FATE!
UNHAMPERED NOW, THE CRIME-BUSTING LEGIONNAIRES RUSH FORWARD TO THE LAIR OF THE SKULL...
THERE HE S TRYING TO BECOME YOUNG AGA N!
HE'S DEAD WONDER WHAT KILLED HIM?
I SAW THE SKULL BEFORE PARDNERS AND HE WASN'T THIS OLD!
BY MY SWORD, FRIENDS, THIS MAN HAS DIED OF OLD AGE!
LATER...
GENTLEMEN THE SKULL DIED BECAUSE HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO OPERATE THIS MACHINE PROPERLY! IT IS SET TO PRODUCE YOUTH IN ANIMALS... BUT OLD AGE IN MAN THE WAVE LENGTH, WASN'T CHANGED!
THE SKULL FEARED DEATH OF OLD AGE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE AND HE FOUND IT WHILE TRYING TO AVOID IT!
YES, AGAIN THE LEGIONNAIRES HAVE SHOWN THAT NO MAN, THOUGH HE POSSESS THE WEALTH OF MIDAS IS ABOVE THE LAWS OF MAN AND NATURE!
PARDNERS WE'VE SEEN JUSTICE DONE TO ANOTHER SIDEWINDER NO MATTER HOW MANY BATTLES HE'S GOT TO HIS TAIL HE STRIKES AT A DECENT MAN WELL STAND HIM OUT! DESTRUCTION TO ALL VARMINTS!
AND WE'RE THE ONES TO SEE THAT IT'S DONE PARDNERS!
ONCE MORE THE SEVEN SOLDERS OF VICTORY PURSUE THEIR SEPARATE WAYS UNAWARE THAT SOON ANOTHER SINISTER PLAN OF EVIL WILL BRING THEM TOGETHER AGAIN TO UNDERGO MORE TRIALS AND PERILS IN THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF
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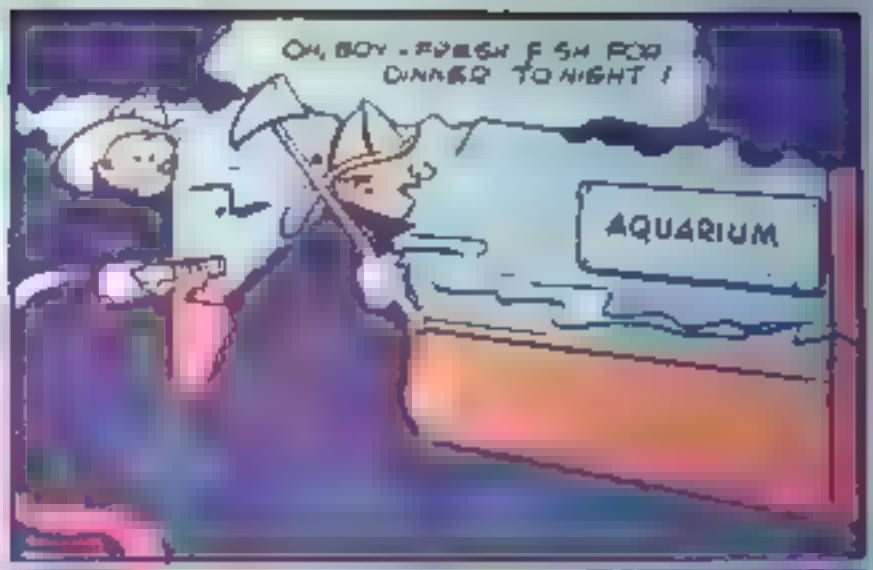

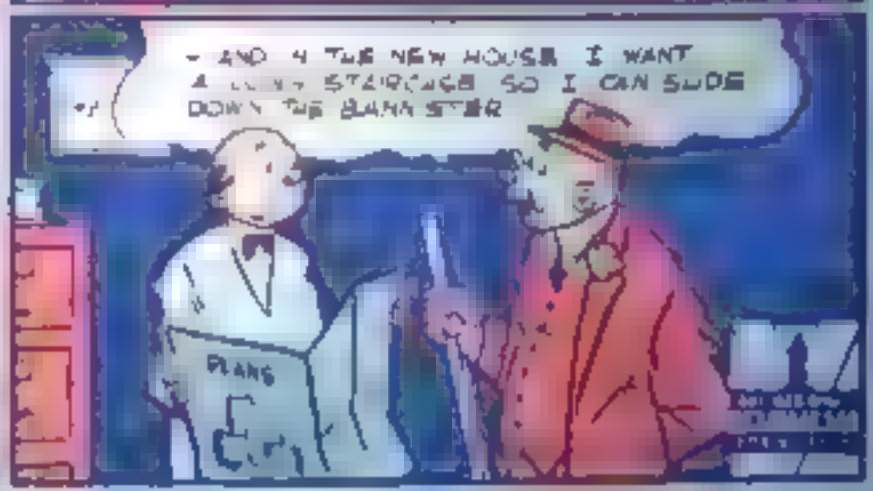

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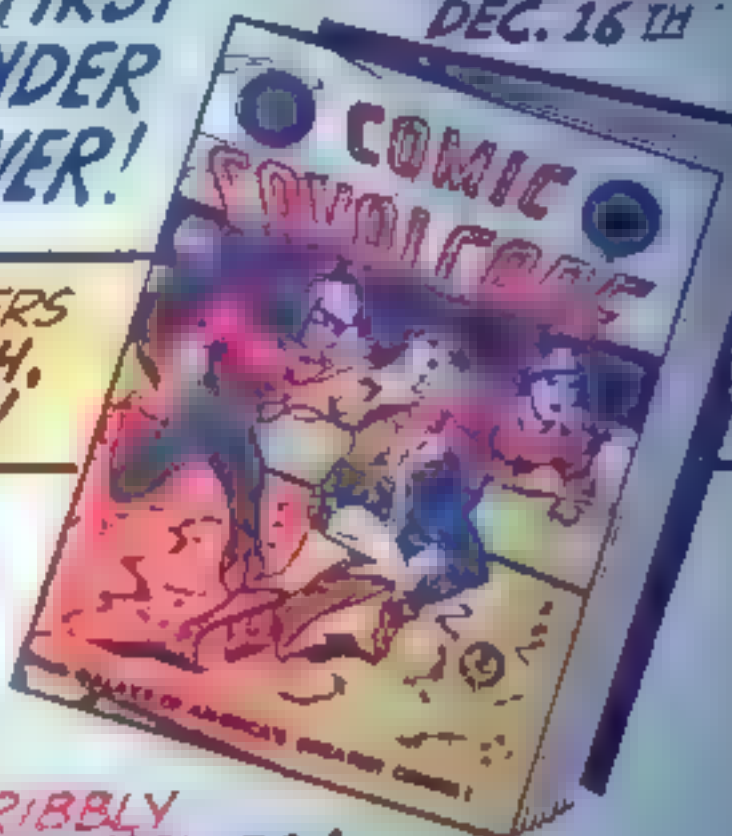

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THREE TIMES LOSER

by Eric Carter

WHEN a guy is a three times loser he has to be plenty careful. A three times loser in gangland parlance is like a guy who has one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel. One little slip and you're through.

They call it the Baumes Law. It is a law with teeth and means that if you are a four time offender, you go to jail for life.

Slick Mason did not intend to do that.

Now you would think that a hood like Slick who has messed up three times in a row, would be very, very careful about pursuing crime further. Well, Slick was careful. From now on, he promised the boys, every job would be performed the way military men execute strategy.

Of course a smart guy would have given up crime entirely. One little miss and you are singing the Prisoner's Song the rest of your days. Only Slick wasn't a smart guy. He was a dumb guy. And only so because he *thought* he was smart.

Take this bank job now. There couldn't be any slips, not the way Slick had planned it. He knew to the minute at what given point a watchman would pass. He knew the alarm belts. He knew where the cop who patrolled the beat would be.

"I know everything," he proudly told the two thugs, Splinter and Wedgy, who sat watching him. "Except where is Barmy?"

Splinter said, "I think he went to the Doc's. Don't you remember, Boss?"

Slick Mason frowned. He should have remembered. After all, Barmy *had* said something. Now what was it he was complaining about. Heart? No, Barmy had a heart as strong as his good right arm. Feet? Yeah, that must have been it. Barmy was always complaining about his feet.

Slick leaned back in his chair and reflected. Sure it was Barmy's feet. He recalled now how two years ago he had taken Barmy, a big good natured clown of a fellow, into the mob. Barmy had been swiping cars in Slick's territory. He hadn't known when he grabbed a big black Cadillac that it had belonged to Slick Mason.

At first Slick had been furious. Then he had had to laugh.

Thus the advent of Barmy into Slick Mason's high powered organization. The four thugs had been doing well, too, this past year and Slick was feeling pretty confident that he had beaten the four times jinx.

This last job would set them on Easy Street. It had been cased for months, and every man knew what he was to do. Including Barmy.

Slick looked at his watch. There wasn't much time to lose.

A door opened.

"Well," Slick said, "it's about time."

Barmy grinned. "I couldn't help it, Slick. You know, you said I should go see the Doc."

Slick saw the other two boys looking at him. Their expressions seemed to say, "What's the matter with the Boss? If he knew where Barmy was all the time, why'd he ask us?" This nettled him.

"Okay, Barmy," he said calmly. "So you been to the Doc's. And now if your dogs are okay, and your ears are open, just listen to what you have to do."

"But Slick, don't you want to hear about those pains I was getting?"

Splinter and Wedgy titter. They were high class box men and, after all, Barmy was only a car thief.

"You'll get some pains," Slick warned. "If you don't get these instructions into your thick skull. You know I'm not, and this is our last job. It's okay for you guys, but one slip for old Slick and he will up the rest of his days in the Big House."

"Gosh, I'm sorry, Boss. Barmy was property penitent. "But I only—"

"Shut up! Tonight, when it's dark, you pick out a new car. There's a big show on at the movies tonight, and the streets will be filled with stuff. Make sure you get a new one. And another thing, Barmy. This town has a dim-out regulation. Nothing but parking lights are to be lit. Remember that."

He turned to Splinter and Wedgy. "We're going to be working in the dark most of the time and we got to be careful." He was becoming excited. This war was getting on his nerves. "Blackouts on everything," he stormed. "How's an honest crook going to see what he's doing?"

Splinter was sympathetic. "That's right, Boss. I even read to get a special flash light for you." He pounded the table with his fist. "But we'll show the rest of the hoods in this town what a real hard guy is like. They'll never forget this."

Slick smiled. He had a swell bunch in town. He could depend on them. "Okay, Barmy," he said expansively. "You

ut We'll meet tonight at eleven sharp."

He watched them go, a feeling of well being suffusing him. Nobody would ever have figured on a bank robbery at eleven. But then they didn't know Slick Mason, and how he worked.

The whole route was carefully planned. They'd pick up Barmy in the alley back of the bank. It was plenty dark enough there, and nobody could see a black car. Then, along out of town, until they hit the highway they'd take back streets, which were plenty deserted. "Maybe," Slick mused "this war isn't so bad after all."

Promptly at ten-thirty a tall hulking fellow walked leisurely around the car parked on streets surrounding the movie house. It was Barmy smiling proudly at Slick's strategy. "Slick sure knows his stuff," he said glancing at the crowd streaming the theatre. They were giving away $5,000 tonight and there was a good picture besides. The manager had called out the reserves when, at this time, the crowd showed no signs of dispersing.

Slick shook his head as a sharp pain knifed above his eye. He wished Slick had listened to what the Doc had said.

Barmy marveled. Something really was wrong with Slick. A big fellow like him. He shrugged. The pain had subsided. "Slick I explain what he told himself. A guy like Slick is smart."

Slick's eyes lit up suddenly. Sometime he had missed this. It was a lulu. Bright and green.

Barmy bent over looked at it. Oh boy brand new! Some guy shot must own this thought. Well he could get back later. Maybe.

A few moments, he was under way. He drove the car carefully until one minute to eleven. Then, with the lights extinguished, he slid into the alley behind the bank. The motor purred so beautifully it was scarcely audible. The cops would have some job if they tried to chase this job. She'd do ninety without a murmur.

He settled back onto the cushions. The boys would be working inside about now, having gotten in through barred windows weakened by acid. Slick had even found the alarm on the window. There'd be no trouble there.

Fifteen minutes later he heard the shot. It wasn't loud, but Barmy knew what it was. His ears were attuned to such noises. "Something up," he said, troubled. But he kept his place. When Slick gave orders, you didn't question them.

Another moment and the boys were there. They had the money with them. Slick slid into the seat alongside Barmy. "Get going!" he said. "Splinter had to wing the watchman."

The car moved smoothly down the street. Through the corner of his eye, Barmy saw Slick mop his brow. He knew what that meant. Slick was worried. He didn't like gun play.

"Don't worry, Boss," he said. "We'll be a few hundred miles from here by morning. This is some bus."

Slick nodded. The car was powerful, all right. Barmy had done a good job. Besides, nobody would see it in these blacked out streets or on darkened highways. That was one good thing about a black car. Further, there were so many black ones, it wouldn't be noticed in daylight traffic.

The car roared through the night. Slick and the boys catnapped after counting the haul. It was plenty, and Slick was well satisfied.

Slick closed his eyes, and the night rolled on, soft and smooth like the limousine that was carrying them to freedom. By tomorrow night they'd have reached the hideout and ditched the car.

Everything, Slick said happily as he dozed off was fine. Just a perfect Slick Mason job.

It was the wail of the siren that woke him up!

The sharp rays of the newly-risen sun hit his eyes. He looked back. "Cops!"

Yes, there were two of them, roaring along with sirens and throttles wide open. Slick reached for his gun. Splinter and Wedgy were scared, looked at him. Surprise had caused panic.

Then Slick leaned back, relaxed his grip on the gun. "Wait a minute, boys," he said. "What've we got to worry about? We can bluff this out." He knew Barmy knew that the car's registration would be in the pocket. Barmy never took a car without making sure the registration was around. News of the theft wouldn't have reached here yet.

"Slow down, Barmy," he said. "We'll talk to 'em." He grinned.

The grin froze. "Barmy," he gasped— "Look—what did you do?"

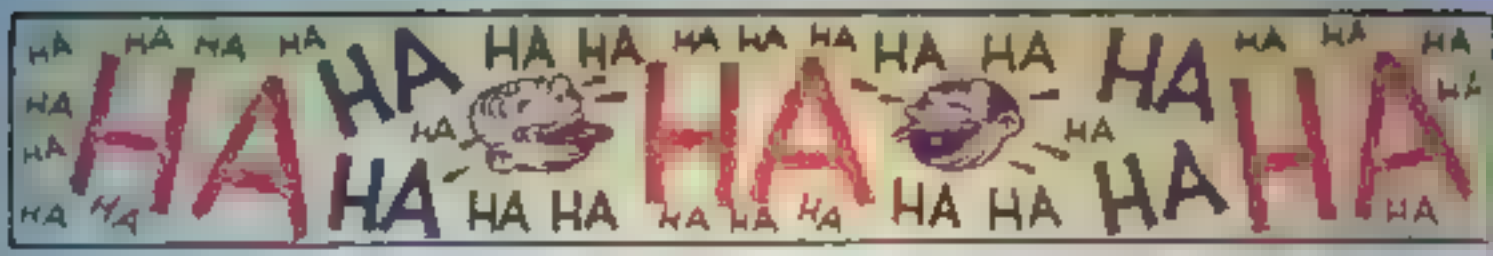
It was the first time he had seen the color of the car. Bright green. And on the hood were the initials, "P.D."

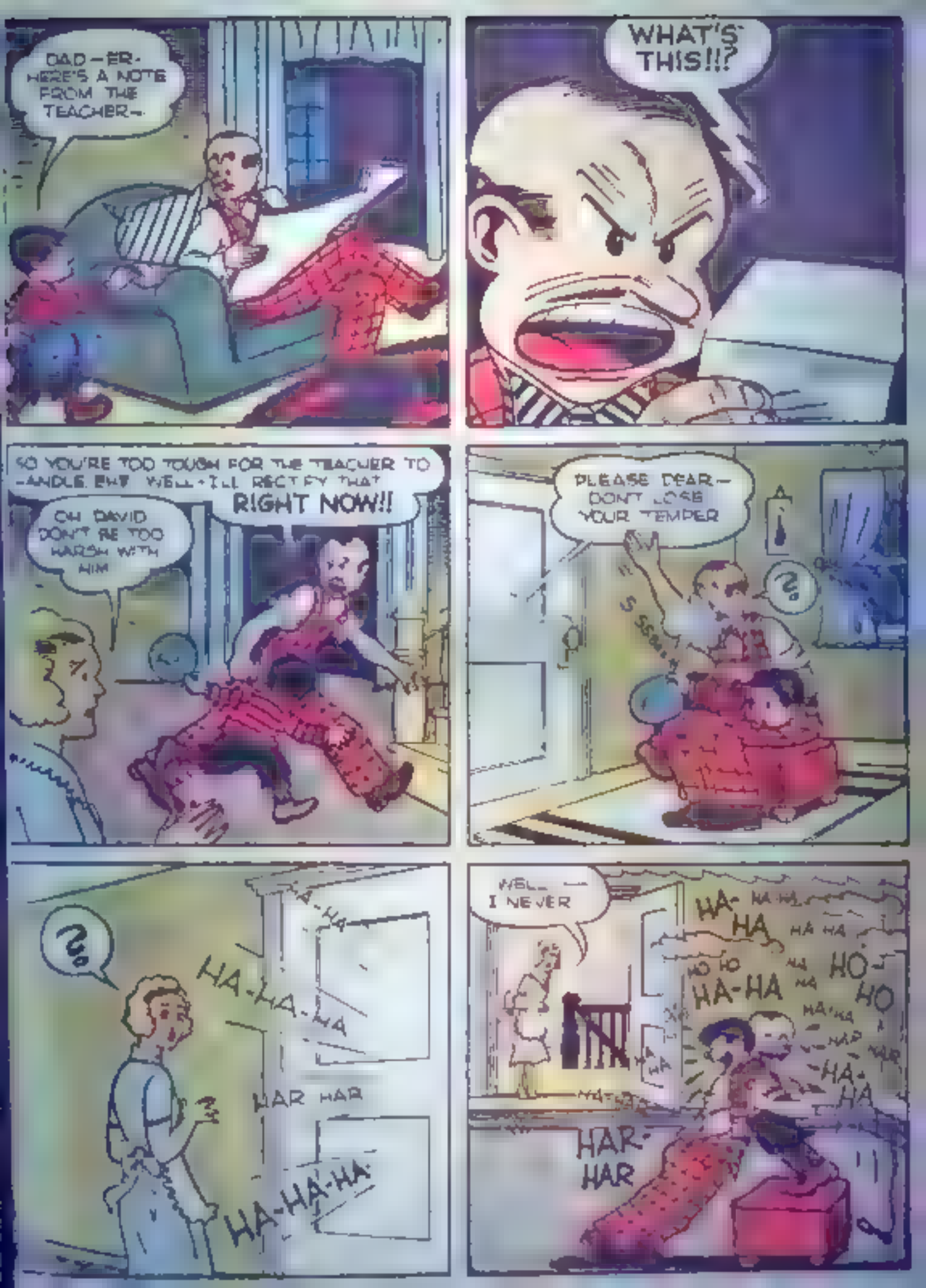
Too late then to do anything about it. Barmy had slowed down. He, too, saw the letters now. But it was too late. The troopers were alongside and their guns were drawn. And Slick, his features contorted with surprise was saying to Barmy. "A black car. I told you to get a black car. What happened?"

Barmy scratched his head, with cuffed wrists. "Ain't it black, Slick?" Then suddenly, understanding came to his face.

"Slick," he said. "That eye doc I went to says I'm color blind. I wanted to ask you about that. Hey, Slick, what's the matter?"

"He's fainted," one of the troopers grinned. "I guess the shock was too much for him. Come on, boys."


HA HA HA


DAD — ER- HERE'S A NOTE FROM THE TEACHER-
WHAT'S THIS!!?
SO YOU'RE TOO TOUGH FOR THE TEACHER TO -ANDLE, EH? WELL - I'LL RECTIFY THAT RIGHT NOW!!
OH DAVID DON'T BE TOO HARSH WITH HIM
PLEASE DEAR— DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER
S SSH...
HA-HA-HA
HAR HAR
HA-HA-HA
WELL— I NEVER
HA-HA
HA HA
HO HO
HA-HA
HO-HO
HAR-HAR

DIZZY DATA

.... BY CPL GeoPop

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HERE'S THE EDGE OF THE SLOPE - AND HERE I'
-GO!
GOSH! I KEEP FORGETTING THAT I USED TO BE HIGH DIVING CHAMP!

BILLY AND HIS BOSS

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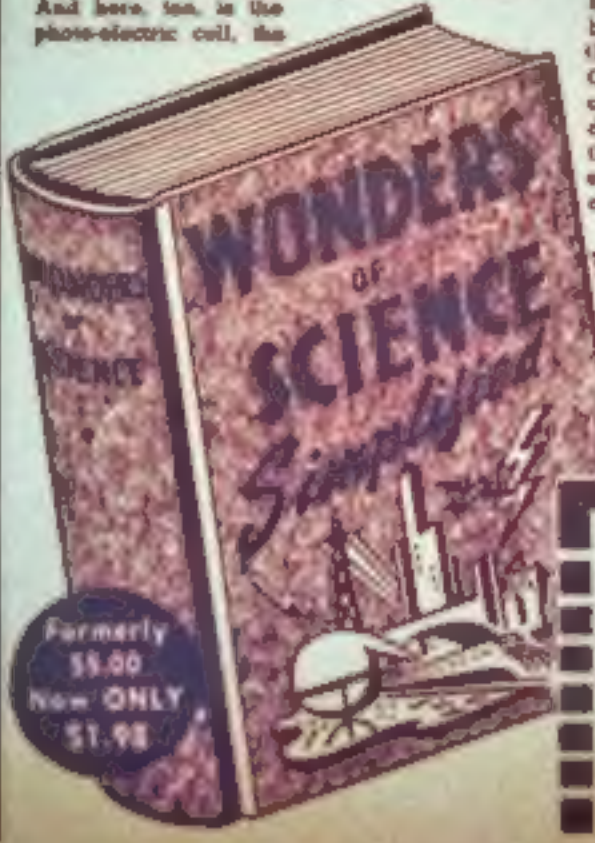

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